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AGRI-NEWS

May 3, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 3, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM FUEL DISTRIBUTION ALLOWANCE INCREASED

The Alberta government has raised the farm fuel distribution allowance to 32 ¢ a gallon (7 ¢ a litre) from 12¢ a gallon (2.6¢ a litre). And it is estimated that this move will provide an average saving to individual Alberta farmers of approximately $1,350 per year compared with an average saving of $500 last year.

The allowance will apply to specially marked gasoline, diesel fuel and heating oil for use on the farm, and it will be deducted by bulk dealers from the retail price of the fuel. The dealers will be reimbursed by the government.

The farm fuel distribution allowance was introduced in 1974 to help farmers handle their input costs.

For further information call the Minister of Agriculture's office at 427-2137.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Have you heard about Alberta Agriculture's On-Farm Demonstration Program which was approved by the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta in January of this year?

It is a sub-program of Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Research Program and is designed to involve farmers and farmer organizations in the on-farm testing and demonstration of projects concerned with new concepts and new technology.

Any farmer who has an innovative idea that he thinks could benefit farmers in his region or the agricultural industry as a whole can apply for a grant under this program. The grant can be used to purchase materials and supplies that would be needed for the project or to obtain the necessary equipment. Travel, labour, data analysis and the reproduction of reports are all eligible expenses. A grant can be for as much as $25,000, depending upon the costs involved in the project.

Among the projects that could qualify for funding are those that are designed to demonstrate that new crops or varieties or new livestock breeds could be adapted to local conditions. Another might be designed to demonstrate a new approach to weed and pest control. Still others might involve the demonstration of better livestock housing and management systems; improved waste management and recovery systems; improved forage production, handling and storage systems; improved energy conservation techniques; improved farm management and decision making processes; new approaches for marketing local products; etc.

- (cont'd) -

On-Farm Demonstration Program (cont'd)

Dr. Yilma Tecklemariam, research coordinator, says a farmer who feels that he has something to contribute in these areas should contact his district agriculturist. If the latter thinks the idea has merit, he will help the farmer to develop a proposal for a project. This proposal will then be submitted to the regional director where a regional review committee will review it and make recommendations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta where a decision on the proposal will be made.

The council operates under the chairmanship of the minister of agriculture (the deputy minister is the vice-chairman) who appoints the members which include a representative of the Legislative Assembly, representatives from various sectors of the research community and farmers from across the province.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

If you have an intensive livestock operation, you should be aware of a document called a Certificate of Compliance. It is intended to minimize potential conflict between intensive agricultural and other land uses.

According to Jerome Manchur, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Ryley, a Certificate of Compliance states that the livestock producer who has it has met all the requirements of the certificate. These requirements are based on an evaluation of the following.

- The site – adjacent land and potential conflicts, etc.
- Farm facilities – the design of the buildings, the waste management system, the type of runoff control, etc.
- Management of the farm – how well the operation is being handled in such areas as waste management.

Mr. Manchur says the minimum distance separation formula is a very important part of the certificate criteria, and that its purpose is to assess the siting of a livestock operations in relation to non-compatible neighboring land uses. An example would be urban housing versus intensive livestock operations. The formula uses a number of factors for determining the conflict potential between the intensive livestock operation and the urban development. This is done by considering the following:-

- The type of livestock – some types smell worse than others.
- The size of the operation – different sizes cause more or less nuisance.
- Potential expansion – established and/or expanding. Established operations are usually not as restricted as new operations.
- Manure system – different types produce more or less odor.

- (cont'd) -

Certificate Of Compliance (cont'd)

- Encroachment — assesses the type of neighboring land use and the effect it might have on the future expansion of the livestock operation.

Once the above factors have been considered, a Certificate of Compliance may or may not be granted. If it is, the person concerned would be wise to comply with it (i.e. keep up the required conditions), especially if he feels that he may run into a conflict over rural residential or urban encroachment. It is probably a good idea for anybody who runs an intensive livestock operation to try to get a Certificate of Compliance, Mr. Manchur says, because it has the backing of a number of government departments including Agriculture, Environment and Health. Also as more and more people get it and adhere to the guidelines, it will become increasingly effective in protecting intensive livestock operations from complaints and the implementation of restrictive regulations.

If you are interested in applying for a Certificate of Compliance, you can get more information from your regional engineer or district agriculturist. The latter also has the necessary forms.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROMOTION OF SURFACTANTS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Do not use a surfactant with your herbicide when spraying crops unless the label on the herbicide recommends that you do so, and then use only the one that is recommended, advises Walter Yarish, supervisor of weed control with Alberta Agriculture.

He says there are people who are promoting these products through the use of testimonials. In other words, they do not actually tell you that the product will improve the performance of the herbicide; they leave this to the testimonials.

In case you are wondering what a surfactant is, it is a product that helps the sticking power and absorption rate of a herbicide. Many herbicides have a surfactant included in their formulations to balance their performance and to prevent crop injury. "If this balance is changed", says Mr. Yarish, "the crop can be damaged. If a surfactant needs to be added to a herbicide, this fact, plus the name of the recommended product, will be stated on the herbicide label."

Mr. Yarish also says there are a variety of surfactants on the market and that each has its specific use. Amway Spray Adjuvant, for example, is registered for use only with atrazine on corn. "To our knowledge", says Mr. Yarish, "this is the only crop it is registered for. Then there is a product that goes by the name of Basic H. Although we do not know what is in this product, we do know that it is not registered as a surfactant in Canada for use with any herbicide or on any crop."

Mr. Yarish believes that the reason farmers are tempted to try surfactants that are not recommended on herbicide labels is that they have been led to believe that any surfactant

- (cont'd) -

Promotion Of Surfactants And Other Agricultural Chemicals (cont'd)

will reduce the amount of herbicide they require for a specific job. However, he warns that this so called saving could turn into a very expensive experiment in the form of crop injury and a reduced yield. He stresses that if a surfactant is not mentioned on the herbicide label, it is not needed!

There are apparently other agricultural chemical products that are being sold to farmers by various soliciting methods, the most common of which is the telephone. These other products include the so called "wonder herbicides" that are being promoted from such places as Toronto, Montreal and New York. "The products we have checked out", says Mr. Yarish, "are registered, but the concentration of the chemicals they contain are extremely low." He points out that because of this extremely low concentration, a farmer who buys them could pay 10 to 20 times more per unit of active ingredient than he would have paid if he had bought the same product from his local dealer. One of these products is called Total, and it contains atrazine at a concentration of approximately 3 per cent compared with a normal concentration of 50 to 90 per cent. Another herbicide called Deestrict contains a mixture of a bromacil and 2,4-D, but again at a very low concentration. Mr. Yarish says this same mixture can be purchased from a local dealer at a fraction of the cost being asked by the promoters.

He also says that most solicitations are being directed at fairly large herbicide users. The implication is that they are getting an extremely good deal by buying in bulk during a very limited period. As Mr. Yarish says, if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO METHODS OF CONTROLLING HORN FLIES

Have you decided how you are going to protect your cattle from horn flies this summer? Insecticide-impregnated ear tags and backrubbers are the two most effective methods of achieving this protection, according to the head of the entomology section of the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Hugh Philip reports that excellent horn fly control was achieved last summer by cattlemen who used the new Bovaid ear tags at the rate of one tag per animal. He recommends that anyone who uses these tags should apply them before they turn their cattle out on pasture so that the flies will be killed as they emerge and before they have time to reproduce.

Mr. Philip says that insecticide-impregnated ear tags can now be used on breeding bulls, but that they may not be too effective on bulls that have a very thick neck. The reason for this is that a thick neck prevents the bull from swinging his head around to his shoulders, which means that the insecticide will not be deposited on his shoulders. However, an untagged bull will derive a satisfactory level of protection if he is in a herd of tagged females.

Insecticide-impregnated ear tags are attached to cattle with special pliers, and they protect the animals to which they have been attached for the whole season. They cost from $2.50 to $3 each, depending upon the retail outlet, and they can be obtained from farm supply dealers, veterinary clinics, grain companies, etc.

According to Mr. Philip, field studies, conducted across Canada by federal, provincial and university livestock entomologists have shown that yearling cattle protected from horn flies with insecticide-impregnated ear tags can gain an extra 35 to 55 pounds during the pasture season, providing that proper disease control, pasture management, etc. are practised.

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Two Methods Of Controlling Horn Flies (cont'd)

Mr. Philip also reports that field studies he has conducted on the performance of self-treatment backrubbers, strategically placed in a pasture, also provide very good horn fly control. He says they should be set up in the pasture (one for every 35 to 45 animals), before the cattle are turned out in the spring. And they should be placed near a watering hole, salt or mineral lick, feed troughs, etc. They should be checked every week to make sure that they are working properly and that the insecticide solution is adequate. Mr. Philip says Ciovap, Ciodrin, malathion, methoxychlor and ronnel can all be used in a backrubber, and that he is currently testing new products for use in either backrubbers or ear or tail tags. He also intends to conduct further studies this summer on the difference in weight gains between protected and unprotected range cattle.

Horn flies reduce weight gains by annoying cattle when they land on their shoulders and when they bite and suck blood along the underside of the animals' bellies. The flies interrupt grazing by causing the cattle to swing their heads to remove flies from their shoulders and backs and to kick to remove them from their bellies. It is not unusual to see a herd of cattle running through willows and other brush in July and August, when horn flies are at their peek, in an attempt to dislodge them. Although horn flies will move from animal to animal and between adjacent herds, Mr. Philip says the majority of them are produced in the pasture in which they are causing the problem.

A survey of provincial grazing reserves, carried out by staff of the entomology section of the Alberta Environmental Centre last summer revealed that horn flies were present in all the reserves, but that populations were quite low in the north-central and Peace River regions.

For more detailed information on horn flies and their control, contact your regional livestock specialist or district agriculturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EXPORT OF ALBERTA'S PROCESSED FOODS INCREASES

Five years ago you could have counted the number of Alberta food processors that were exporting products outside Canada on one hand. Today that number has increased many times over.

By taking advantage of international marketing opportunities, the international marketing group has encouraged the development of a significant Alberta food processing industry. The results have been tangible and in keeping with the Alberta government's goal of increasing the export of value-added products. For example, the volume of grocery products exported by Alberta to the United States in 1980 was up by 115 per cent compared with the previous year. And all indications are that the trend will be found to have continued in 1981.

Following is a list of Alberta processors that are now in the exporting business.

Alberta Premium Source Waters; Alpha Milk; Andres Wine; Bee Maid Honey; Bowness Bakery; Canbra Foods (canola oil, margarine and shortening); Ellison Milling; Empress Foods (frozen vegetables and juices); Facchin Foods (pasta); Forcrest Foods (crumpets); Maple Leaf Milling; Mo-Na Mushrooms; Nanton Pure Spring Water; Lucerne Foods; Palm Dairies; Rocky Mountain Breweries; Sun Valley Foods (croutons); Sunland Cookies; Vauxhall Foods (potato granules); W.P. Foods (frozen tart shells); and York Farms.

A number of other firms are preparing to participate in the export market.

Wilf Walker, senior marketing officer with Alberta Agriculture, says the province's export thrust has traditionally been in the area of commodities like grain and oilseeds, but that

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The Export Of Alberta's Processed Foods Increases (cont'd)

our fledgling food processing industry is gradually coming of age. He adds that Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group is committed to help the growth of export markets for processed foods that add value to the province's agricultural raw materials rather than allowing these benefits to go out of Alberta.

Although the United States has been the main export market for Alberta's processed products to date, some products have found additional outlets. Canola oil and potato granules, for example, are being shipped to many countries and packaged honey is going to 23!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISCONTINUED INSECTICIDES

Houseplant owners and home gardeners who use insecticides should check the labels of products that they have carried over from previous years to see whether or not they contain the active ingredient disulfoton. Any that are found to contain this chemical should be disposed of by burying them in their original containers at an approved landfill site.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that the following insecticides, all of which contain disulfoton, have been ordered off the domestic market by Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

- Greenleaf Granular Systemic Insecticide for Houseplants, Flowers and Shrubs
- Wilson Potted Plant Systemic Insecticide
- Chipman Household Systemic Insecticide Granules
- Dexol Systemic Houseplant Insecticide
- Later's Granular Systemic Insecticide for Houseplants, Flowers and Shrubs
- Later's Granular Systemic Insecticide

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

If you plan to hire a student under the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program or if you hope to get a job under the program you must submit an application form to your nearest Canada farm labor pool office before June 4, 1982.

This program, which is designed to provide work experience for students during their summer vacations, has attracted more than 25,000 young people since it was initiated 10 years ago.

Any Alberta farmer can employ a student under the program, providing that the student is not a member of the employer's family, and the Alberta government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old and have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. They must also have resided in Alberta for the past 12 months, and they must be legally entitled to work in Canada. In addition, they must be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Applications from potential employers under the program will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to those who did not participate in last year's program.

Employer and employee application forms can be obtained from any district agriculturist or Canada farm labor pool office.

Further details on the Alberta Summer Employment Program can be obtained from Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-2172).

May 3, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALISTS

Back row (l to r) Heather Hoven, Greg Francis, Janice Frank, Holly Treacy, Gord Leonhardt and Joanne Dykstra. Front row (l to r) Karen Hoppins, Marie Dutchak and Cathy Botten.

Marie Dutchak of Vermilion won first place at the Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals in Calgary. Her talk entitled "The Farmer's Deadly Syndrome" dealt with competition between farm families in Canada.

Karen Hoppins of the Huxley Beef Club took second place with her speech on farmstead planning. It was entitled "To Hold Hands with Nature".

Cathy Botten of Boyle was third. Her Speech "Am I Different?" pointed out that rural youth face many of the same threats that we normally associate with urban life.

The other six finalists were: Greg Francis of Fort Saskatchewan, Joanne Dykstra of Ponoka, Janice Frank of Edberg, Holly Treacy of Hussar, Heather Hoven of Markerville and Gordon Leonhardt of Drumheller.

"Rural Life in Canada" was the general theme of this year's Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals.

May 3, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUIDING CHILDREN IN MONEY MATTERS

by Pauline McCardle
Home Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie

Parents who are looking for ideas on how to teach their children the basics of money management may be interested in a new publication entitled "Guiding Children in Money Matters". It contains many practical suggestions for developing your child's understanding and skills for earning, spending, saving, borrowing and budgeting money.

One of the first ideas to get across to children is where money comes from. When asked this question, they often reply "from dad's pocket" or "from mom's purse." Explain to your children that you have to work to get that money. Either you have to produce things to sell for money or you are paid money for your work. Point out different things people can do to earn a living — carpentering, teaching, farming, driving a bus, etc. Talk to your children about what they might like to do when they grow up. If age permits, discuss with them what they could do now to make money — delivering newspapers, collecting bottles, cleaning sidewalks or growing houseplants.

Children need to learn early how to get the most for their money. Point out what the choices are and what to look for as you shop with them for groceries, clothes and sports equipment.

Do you sometimes see your children blow their whole allowance in two hours after they have received it? Actions like this are all part of learning to handle money. Children need to see the results quickly of saving money to be convinced that its more worthwhile to save than to splurge. Suggest setting aside part of their allowance for a small item that they will be able to purchase with their own money in a few weeks. When they have the prized purchase, saving money will seem a rewarding venture.

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Guiding Children In Money Matters (cont'd)

In day to day family living, children soon learn that when they borrow anything from a brother or a sister, they are expected to return it pronto and in good condition. All such experiences with borrowing will help them later when they need to borrow money and use credit.

Telling children what to do with money is not enough. They need you to guide them through experiences in the market place. For more ideas on how to help your children learn about money, ask for a free copy of "Guiding Children In Money Matters" (Homedex 1820-13-1). It is available from your district home economist , and individual copies can also be obtained from Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RANGE AND SOIL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The establishment of a Range and Soil Improvement Program has been announced by J. Harold Hanna, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation.

The program is intended to increase farm income through the improvement and development of agricultural land. It will provide an annual incentive on loans guaranteed by the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation for the purpose of increasing the productivity of the province's agricultural land base.

Incentives will apply to loans that cover the cost of brushing and breaking previously uncultivated land. Where the soil has an adequate potential, the seeding of pasture and hay lands to suitable tame species of forage crops is also covered. And the program can be used for the application of agricultural lime or marl to reduce acidity. Deep plowing to a depth of 12 to 24 inches will also be covered subject to prior inspection and approval by an Alberta Agriculture soil specialist.

Other improvements covered by the program are: brush control through mechanical or biological means; fence construction to facilitate grazing on a rotational basis or to facilitate the use of additional grazing areas; trails through brush covered areas to improve animal access to grazing land; poisonous plant control and range weed control; and the development of small low lying areas on the farm.

An incentive of $70 per $1,000 of the original loan that is eligible is payable annually over a five-year period. Individuals who qualify are eligible for a loan of up to a maximum of $10,000. For corporations or partnerships the eligible loan is $10,000 for the first family plus $5,000 for each additional family to a maximum of $20,000. Each family

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Range And Soil Improvement Program Announced (cont'd)

must be actively involved in the farming or ranching operation, and the applicant must be the owner-operator of the farming or ranching enterprise.

The Range and Soil Improvement Program replaces the Native Range Improvement Program, but payment of incentives on approved applications under the Native Range Improvement Program will continue to be paid in the normal manner until they expire. Previous use of the Native Range Improvement Program will not prevent an applicant from applying for the maximum loan under the Range and Soil Improvement Program. However, the amount of incentive paid under this program cannot exceed the actual interest paid on the loan.

Mr. Hanna said the Range and Soil Improvement Program has been set up to encourage better cultural practices rather than to function as a major land and drainage improvement program. It will be evaluated after a year's operation and the limits will be reviewed. And it is expected that those interested in applying lime and marl will make considerable use of the program. In such cases, a soil test is a prerequisite. "We expect applicants to evaluate the benefits of applying lime and marl by initially spreading it on only a portion of their land," Mr. Hanna said.

Brushing and breaking of land for any type of crop production is eligible, under the new Range and Soil Improvement Program, whereas clearing and breaking land was eligible only when the land would be used for forage production under the Native Range Improvement Program. All projects that come under the Range and Soil Improvement Program will require the approval of a district agriculturist.

For further information on the program and application forms contact your district agriculturist or your local Agricultural Development Corporation office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANY RECEIVES GOVERNMENT GRANT

A new privately owned Canadian company, IST - Canfarm inc., has received a $60,000 grant from Alberta Agriculture.

Founded in February 1981 by IST - COPA, a Montreal data processing company and Canadian Farm Management Coop with a membership of 33 farm organizations, marketing boards and cooperatives, IST - Canfarm inc. provides a farm financial management service to more than 500 Alberta farmers who were previously serviced by Alberta Agriculture staff.

IST - Canfarm Inc has more than 60 accounting firms working with it and is able through these firms to deliver a professional financial service to farmers in all Alberta Agriculture regions.

For more information about the Canfarm financial program write to 64 Baird Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4R 1K6 or telephone 342-1393.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEAK AND STILLBORN CALVES AND LAMBS REPORTED

Alberta Agriculture's animal disease section has received reports from veterinarians, district agriculturists and farmers of many calves and lambs that are either being born dead or in a weak condition.

According to Dr. D.W. MacDonald of the animal disease section, a large number of cases have been encountered throughout Alberta, but they have been especially prevalent in the eastern and southern regions of the province. He says that the exact cause of the weak calves and lambs, has, in some cases, been difficult to determine, but that many have been associated with poor nutrition on the part of the mother.

He believes that this poor nutrition was caused by a combination of factors. The drought in certain areas of the province last summer resulted in a shortage of forage and feed in those regions and in poor quality feed. Then there was the fairly open fall with no snowfall in many areas until almost Christmas, which resulted in a large number of calves not being weaned until late in the year. And because the cows were often kept on pasture with no supplemental feed until their calves were weaned, they suffered from nutritional stress.

Dr. MacDonald explains that an adequate level of nutrition is critical during the second trimester of pregnancy, which usually corresponds with the fall feeding period, for the proper development of the placenta. Hence, an inadequate diet during this period is bound to contribute to the birth of dead and weak animals.

This year's exceptionally cold weather after Christmas did not help the situation. Dr. MacDonald speculates that an inadequate level of energy, vitamin A, and protein contributed to the problem.

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Weak And Stillborn Calves And Lambs Reported (cont'd)

"It is important to remember", says Dr. MacDonald, "that for every 5° C the temperature goes below -20° C, it is necessary to feed each cow an additional two pounds of barley. And a thin cow will need 30 per cent more feed per day than a cow that is in good condition." Some agriculturists recommend that cows in the last 60 days of pregnancy be fed six to eight pounds of barley per day.

To avoid the situation that has occurred with calves and lambs this year, Dr. MacDonald urges farmers to have the rations they plan to feed to their cows and ewes during the winter analyzed early in the winter feeding period so that they can make any adjustments that may be necessary before the cold weather arrives. He stresses that it is unlikely that a cow or a ewe will produce a vigorous, healthy offspring if it has not been fed a proper diet during the cold weather.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RABIES SITUATION IN ALBERTA

"Although Alberta is still relatively free of rabies, all residents need to be vigilant against the disease in any animal so that if it should occur, it can be halted as soon as possible", says the director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. R.G. Christian.

He credits Alberta's favorable situation compared with that in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to a coordinated program on the part of provincial, municipal and federal governments here. Many more cases of rabies in skunks, cattle, dogs, cats and other animals occur in those provinces than have occurred in Alberta, and many more people have been exposed to the disease, which means they have had to go through the post-exposure treatment program.

Dr. Christian reports that there has been a serious outbreak of rabies during the last two years in an area east of Warner and south of Foremost in the southern part of the province, but that a skunk population control program and the area's natural geographical barriers have successfully limited it. The last positive skunk was found in December 1981, but work is continuing to make sure that rabies has been eradicated from the skunk population in the area.

However, a number of people were exposed to rabid animals during that period. They were given anti-rabies vaccination treatments and did not contract the disease. The main culprits in these cases were a dog and a cat.

Dr. Christian says a reduction in the skunk population has also been effective in controlling rabies in another small outbreak that took place around the town of Rosemary near Brooks. Twelve positive skunks have been found in that area since last December.

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The Rabies Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

The fact that a low incidence of rabies can also occur in the province's bat population, and that rabid bats have been found over the last 10 years in most regions, means that no area is completely safe from the disease. It could be transmitted from a rabid bat to a skunk, cat or dog that happened to catch the bat.

According to Dr. Christian, Alberta continues to maintain a skunk population control buffer zone along the Saskatchewan border in the same way that it maintains a rat control zone. And no rabid skunks appear to have crossed this zone during the last four and a half years.

Research into rabies in skunks in Alberta is funded by Alberta Agriculture and conducted by the Alberta fish and wildlife division. Dr. Christian says that studies carried out in the skunk population control area in southern Alberta by Richard Rosatte of the fish and wildlife division indicate that juvenile skunks do not travel very far when skunk numbers are low. And this characteristic has contributed to a reduction in the spread of rabies in skunk population control areas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT PRICE OUTLOOK

Given the prospect of large wheat and burdensome feed grain supplies and continued poor economic performance, the outlook for wheat is not favorable. Unless adverse weather conditions reduce the size of world grain crops, farmers should sell as much wheat as possible in the 1981-82 Canadian Wheat Board price pool.

This forecast comes from Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing analyst, Les Lyster. He does not think that world wheat prices have bottomed out yet. In fact, he expects them to drift lower between now and June or July.

He estimates that the Canadian wheat carryover will be larger this summer than it was last summer, and he reports that farmers have indicated they intend to plant a record wheat acreage this season. Hence, a further carryover stock accumulation is likely during the 1982-83 crop year.

World wheat carryover stocks for 1981-82 are currently estimated 82.3 million tonnes or 9 per cent above what they were a year ago. And carryover stocks in the five major exporting countries are expected to be around 53.5 million tonnes or 17.5 per cent above their 1980-81 levels.

World wheat production during the new crop year is again expected to be large, while trade is expected to decline, which means that a further small buildup in stocks is likely to occur.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK

Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst expects non-board country elevator bids for feed barley to be in the $90 per tonne range this fall and that a portion of the new barley crop should be hedged at its current level.

Les Lyster says that non-board barley prices in the months ahead will mainly depend upon the acreage that is seeded to barley this spring and upon crop development. Other important factors will include the Canadian Wheat Board's delivery opportunities and the performance of the American corn market.

The Canadian barley acreage is expected to be around 13 million acres, down by 5 per cent from the 1981 acreage. Thus the barley acreage harvested would be around 12.6 million acres, and this acreage, combined with normal yields, would mean a 1982 barley crop of about 12.5 million tonnes. "A crop of this size," says Mr. Lyster, "would result in total 1982-83 barley supplies of around 16.8 million tonnes, which would be slightly above the record 1981-82 level."

Although domestic and export demand for U.S. corn is expected to improve in the coming crop year, it will not be sufficient to draw down corn stocks during the 1982-83 crop year, according to Mr. Lyster. Therefore, unless the corn acreage in the United States is reduced more than is currently anticipated or yields fall well below the normal trend, a significant reduction in the corn carryover is not likely.

Mr. Lyster thinks that the corn market will maintain a trading range near its current level until mid-summer and that if crop prospects are favorable at that time prices can be expected to have moved lower by this fall.

So unless adverse weather conditions cause a shortfall in Canadian and world feed grain crops, Mr. Lyster says we can expect barley prices to decline over the summer.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

May 10, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA PRICE OUTLOOK

Canola prices are expected to remain at their current level during the coming months unless adverse weather conditions reduce the size of the 1982 world oilseed crop, says Les Lyster, grain market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

He expects country elevator bids in Alberta to be in the $285-$305 per tonne range between now and the fall, and he thinks that even modest rallies should be used to sell remaining old crop supplies because the market is not likely to cover carrying charges. And he thinks that a portion of the new crop should be hedged whenever a street price of around $308 per tonne or better can be realized.

Although the 1981-82 Canadian canola supply/demand situation is very tight, and is expected to continue to be so during the 1982-83 crop year, oilseed supplies are more plentiful on the world scene.

World production of soybeans, cottonseed, peanuts, sunflower and canola was all above year-ago levels in the 1981-82 crop year. However, increased soybean production accounts for most of the increase, despite the shortfall in the Brazilian crop which is likely to be below the current estimate of 13.5 million tonnes. World production of protein meals for the 1981-82 crop year is estimated to be up by 7.3 per cent compared with the previous year. And production of fats and oils is estimated to be up by 3.3 per cent from their 1980-81 levels.

Although world oilseed usage is expected to increase during the 1981-82 crop year by 4 or 5 per cent from the year-ago level, and oilseed carryover stocks are forecast to decline slightly, world oilseed supplies are expected to remain comfortable.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK FOR GRAIN BEETLES

Be sure to check your stored grain for grain beetles from now until you dispose of the grain.

This advice comes from Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who explains that beetles which were present in the grain last fall and winter will start to become active and to reproduce as the grain warms up. He believes there are a lot of infested grain bins in the province this spring which did not pose detectable problems during the winter because of the extremely cold weather after Christmas.

A sign that beetle infestations were higher than normal in Alberta last fall is the number of grain cars that have been found to be infested at terminal elevators. These infestations were province-wide rather than being confined to specific areas as is usually the case. Also, elevator agents found beetles in grain that they received last fall and had to refuse to accept a substantial number of loads.

Mr. Dolinski advises anyone who finds stored grain beetles to fumigate his grain with a commercial phosphine fumigant. However, since this fumigant works best at a grain temperature of 15° C or higher, he recommends that farmers wait until the grain reaches this temperature before fumigating, even though the minimum temperature for fumigating is 5° C. He also says that the beetles will not start to reproduce until the grain temperature exceeds 15° C. Phosphine fumigants are available from most elevator agents, but prospective purchasers must have a permit, which can be obtained from any agricultural fieldman.

Mr. Dolinski also advises farmers who have had even a slight beetle infestation in the past to clean out all their empty grain bins and to spray them with malathion before binning this year's crop.

May 10, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CUSTOM RATES

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

From time to time a farmer is hired by his neighbor to do custom work and the question of charges arises.

The simplest thing to do would be to refer to a publication that lists what commercial operators are charging. Although Alberta Agriculture's publication "Annual Summary of Custom Rates" may be helpful as a guide, in many cases the rates quoted have no relevance whatsoever to a situation where a farmer is doing work for his neighbor. There are too many variables to make reliance on a so called "going custom rate" dependable. Rates and costs are different for different farmers and for difference reasons. Farmers often exchange their labor; sometimes they only rent out their equipment and sometimes they supply only labor and a power unit.

Good Neighbor and Commercial Custom Rates

The difference between a "good neighbor rate" and a full-time operator's rate reflects the extent to which fixed costs and a profit margin are included. Fixed costs, such as housing, insurance, depreciation and investment occur daily, regardless of how much the machinery is used. However, the more hours it is used, the lower the fixed cost per hour will be. This is an important factor when deciding what size of machine is needed and how much to charge.

Since a farmer purchases machinery and other equipment primarily for his own use, the fixed ownership costs could be ignored when doing custom work for a neighbor.

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Farm Custom Rates (cont'd)

However, the rate charged should cover such variable costs as fuel, lubrication, repairs and labor. A full-time custom operator will, on the other hand, include in his rates both fixed and variable costs and a margin for profit. This is the reason that commercial custom rates are usually higher than "good neighbor rates."

To determine any custom rate for any situation, it is necessary to have a good handle on both the ownership and operating costs of the equipment. Farm machinery costs can be determined from your own records, and there are publications that will help you to calculate and estimate them. They are entitled "Farm Machinery Costs (Agdex 825-12); "Know Your Farm Machinery Costs" (Agdex 825-6) and "Farm Machinery Costs — A Guide to Custom Rates" (Agdex 825-4). All three are available from all district offices.

Custom Farm Agreement

Whether performed by a full-time commercial custom operator or on a part-time basis by a neighbor, custom work constitutes a business arrangement, and as such the agreement should clearly specify the rights and duties of the parties involved.

Here are some points to consider when formulating an agreement.

- Operation — type and frequency
- Timeliness — draw up a schedule which states when the work is to commence and when it is to be completed
- Rate schedule
- Payment — terms, amount
- Down-time
- Termination
- Liability
- Management

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Farm Custom Rates (cont'd)

The person who is having custom work done is the boss. And he should outline in detail what is to be done and when and how it is to be done. Such things as seed, fertilizer, etc. should be ready so that the custom operator is not held up. There is an excellent publication pertaining to custom farm agreements. It is called "Custom Farming Agreement" (Agdex 817-10), and it is available from any district agriculturist.

Hiring a custom operator can be very advantageous, particularly if such resources as capital, labor, machinery and other equipment and time are limited. Among the criteria that should be considered when hiring a full-time custom operator or a neighbor to do a job are: dependability; the quality of work that he does; his availability; whether or not he has the required machinery; and whether or not he has the experience, knowledge and skill to exercise good judgement in relation to the job he will be required to do.

As with most things, it is a good idea to shop around and to get your agreement in writing.

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May 10, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEHORNING CALVES

Dehorning causes less stress and is much more humane when it is done on young calves than when it is done at weaning time or later, says Ross Gould, head of the special projects section of Alberta Agriculture's cattle and sheep branch.

He points out that calves which have been properly dehorned at birth or in the early summer will be worth more on the fall market because they require less bunk space in a feedlot, they do not prevent other cattle from feeding and they do not bruise other animals. In addition, they look more uniform in the feedlot, they feed better and they bring a higher market price.

There are three bloodless dehorning methods that can be used on young calves, and the objective of all three is to destroy the small ring of skin that encircles the horn buttons. To be successful, they should be used before much horn growth has occurred.

The first method involves a dehorning paste which is placed on the horn buttons with a small wooden paddle. Precautions should be taken with this method to prevent the paste from coming in contact with other areas of the calf or coming in contact with the user.

The second method involves caustic soda or potash, also called a caustic stick. To use caustic soda, you must first clip away the hair from around the horn buttons and then rub the moist end of the caustic soda on to the undeveloped horns and on to the skin immediately surrounding them. Two or three applications are required, but be sure to allow the caustic soda to dry between applications. This will take only a few minutes, and if the job is done properly there will be no further horn growth. The calves should be protected from rain for a few days to prevent the caustic soda from washing on to their faces and causing a chemical burn, and the area around the horns should be protected with petrolatum before the caustic soda is applied to prevent a chemical burn there. Also, the calves should be kept away

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Dehorning Calves (cont'd)

from their mothers after treatment with a dehorning paste or caustic soda until the chemicals have dried to avoid udder burn.

The third method requires an electric dehorner. Most electric dehorners have a cupped attachment which, when placed over the horn buttons, burns off the horn tissue. Although this method is bloodless, it must be done when the calves are very small. The burning must be liberal to destroy all potential new horn tissue, and the skin will usually be a copper or bronze color when the job is finished.

There are four methods of dehorning cattle by mechanical means. One of these is the horn gouge, the objective of which is to surgically remove the horns and a small ring of skin around them. Horns may be removed from any age of animal by this method, but the potential for complications increases greatly with the age of the animal.

The spoon dehorner is used on small calves and involves cutting or gouging out the horn buttons. Some cattlemen use a heavy knife to do this and then coat the edges with caustic soda.

The tube dehorner can be used on calves of up to four months of age. The tubes come in various sizes, and the horn buttons are gouged out by a turning action.

A dehorning saw is usually used on a mature animal to avoid cracking the skull bones. The blade on these saws is especially designed for cutting bone and horn tissue, and the cut should be made about half an inch below the juncture of the horn and the skin to prevent regrowth.

There are three special concerns about wounds made by the mechanical dehorning methods. They are hemorrhaging, infection and fly blow, all of which, according to Mr. Gould, can be avoided by using a bloodless dehorning method.

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May 10, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA FARMERS' MARKET SITUATION

If the recent opening of the market at New Norway is any indication of things to come, this is going to be a good year for Alberta's farmers' markets.

New Norway opened with 34 stallholders and 400 customers – not bad for a town with a population of only 300! It is one of 10 new markets which are scheduled to open this season, and which will bring the number of markets scattered throughout Alberta to 100.

Things that can be bought at farmers' markets vary with the time of the year. They usually start with bedding plants in May and June, and the selection increases in the summer to include vegetables, berries and some local fruit. However, many markets arrange for shipments of B.C. fruit to be brought in, while others feature poultry or fresh fish. Shoppers can always find eggs, honey, home baking, mushrooms, houseplants and a wide selection of handmade crafts.

According to Bill Bayda, Alberta Agriculture's farmers' market representative, farmers' markets offer Albertans a unique opportunity to socialize while doing their buying and selling. He says "Few other events bring out so many people of all types – homemakers, young people and senior citizens, – many of whom visit together in the coffee areas that can be found at most farmers' markets."

Among other activities that are featured at many markets are cooking demonstrations, contests and other special events, all of which add up to an exciting and enjoyable shopping expedition.

"Selling at a farmers' market is an efficient way of doing business for farmers," says Mr. Bayda. "They can sell a large volume of produce to dozens of customers in three or four hours instead of having to make many separate sales to customers throughout the week."

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The Alberta Farmers' Market Situation (cont'd)

According to Mr. Bayda, more Alberta-grown produce could be sold even at the peak of the season, which means part-time growers — retired people or families living on acreages, etc. — could grow produce for farmers' markets.

A list of all the farmers' markets in Alberta, which gives their locations, and days and times of operation, can be obtained from Travel Alberta booths or from the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 10045-111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1K4.

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May 10, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY FARM INSPECTION BRANCH HEAD APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's dairy commissioner/director, Fred Hutchings, has announced the appointment of Lloyd G. Johnston to the position of head of the dairy farm inspection branch in Wetaskiwin. His appointment will become effective on June 1.

Mr. Johnston was raised on a mixed farm near Creelman, Saskatchewan. He received his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1971, having specialized in dairy and food science.

Following graduation, Mr. Johnston worked for the West Agro Chemical Company in Ottawa and was later transferred to London, as Western Ontario sales manager.

In 1973, he accepted the position of dairy specialist with Alberta Agriculture and worked in the Fairview area. He moved to Calgary in 1976 when he was appointed regional dairy specialist and has since received his M.B.A. from the University of Calgary.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOW CHEMICAL REFUTES CANCER CHARGES AGAINST HERBICIDE

by Dr. Moe Hussain
Alberta Agriculture

Dow Chemical (Canada) Ltd., in a national press release issued last week, emphasizes that, contrary to recent newspaper reports, Tordon herbicide does not cause cancer.

Dow Chemical was responding to an article in the Toronto Star, April 4, which alleged that Tordon, a widely used herbicide against broad leaved weed and woody brush species on rights-of-way, was the prime suspect in causing a 60 per cent increase in cancer deaths in Cherokee County, North Carolina, U.S.A. The article was written by American freelance writer, Keith Schneider, who claimed that he interviewed residents in the county's Hanging Dog community before arriving at his conclusions.

A version of Schneider's article first appeared a month ago in "Inquiry", a small-circulation U.S. Environmental magazine. Following its appearance, a team of epidemiologists from Dow's Health and Environmental Service Group reviewed national and Cherokee County official public health statistics to evaluate the "Inquiry" article's allegations of a local cancer epidemic. After the data had been adjusted to account for such factors as population increases, age and increased availability of medical care, the team concluded that the area's 10-year cancer rate was very close to or below the national average rather than of epidemic proportions as alleged. Therefore, said Dow, the use of Tordon brand herbicides in Cherokee County could not in any way be construed as causing an increase in cancer there.

Dr. Ralph Cook, a co-author of the Dow team's report, noted that "Statistical adjustments for age in particular are important because cancer is predominantly a disease of older people". He pointed out that his team discovered "Cherokee County had in recent years

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Dow Chemical Refutes Cancer Charges Against Herbicides (cont'd)

become a popular retirement retreat attracting an influx of older people. Nevertheless, the overall age-adjusted death rate in the county had been declining steadily below the U S national average since 1972."

Dow's release indicated that "Both the U.S. National Cancer Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency had reviewed toxicology studies on Tordon and concluded that the herbicide did not cause cancer in laboratory rats and mice. Extensive research on Tordon herbicide has been upheld by Canadian government regulatory experts and through peer review in the scientific community. None of it shows any significant cause for alarm provided Tordon is used according to label instructions." Under Canada's Pest Control Products Act, it is a criminal offence for any user to deviate from label instructions and the penalties are severe.

Don Stephenson, a Dow Canada spokesman, emphasized that Schneider's article ". . . presented a one-sided biased view of the facts about Tordon's safety and included misleading cancer incidence data." Moreover, he concluded, "Such an article casts doubt on the honesty of the scientific research we and independent scientists have done."

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHOULD GRAIN SUBSIDY AND BRANCHLINE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS BE SEPARATE?

Is it feasible or desirable to seek solutions to the problem arising from the Crow rate by the separate administration of grain and branchline subsidies? A satisfactory resolution of this problem should result if the following three questions can be answered positively:

- Are public purposes served through subsidizing light density Prairie branchlines, and the direct subsidization of grain transportation, sufficiently distinguishable to warrant the establishment of separate programs?
- Can the costs be separated on the basis of costs of operating low density lines versus the cost of the statutory rate itself?
- Will the development of separate programs minimize economic distortions and lead to greater social benefits in the long run?

Fundamentally different objectives should be pursued through branchline and grain transportation policies. Subsidizing grain transportation through a branchline program has already been shown to be fatally flawed. The current manifestations of the "Crow Gap" crisis may be attributed to the shortcomings of this solution.

Branchline policy should be concerned with the geographical layout and physical condition of the railway network because using it as compensation for grain transportation causes problems. Traffic other than grain is subsidized on branchlines, while much of the grain which is transported under statutory rates on only mainline railways receives no compensation.

In addition, the policy concerned with the rationalization of the rail network is seriously constrained by considerations which really pertain to grain policy. As long as a "cost minus revenue formula" is pursued, railway incentives for operational efficiency or for facility

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Should Grain Subsidy And Branchline Subsidy Programs Be Separated (cont'd)

maintenance will be nonexistent. No incentive is provided to the railways to develop additional non-grain business, and, thereby, spread the costs over a larger volume of traffic. To do so would be to trade "subsidy dollars" for "revenue dollars". Further, since the railways argue that compensation is on a "going out of business" basis rather than a "going concern" basis, the railways' return on investment in such lines is not sufficient to encourage reinvestment.

Branchline subsidies designed to allow such operations to "get on their feet" may be a useful alternative to the current system of underwriting perpetual losses whether or not these losses can be avoided.

The freezing of the branchline network now places the major responsibility of grain system rationalization on the elevator companies. Rationalization must continue because failure to modernize, combined with a formula grain subsidy, could result in farmers subsidizing low density lines. This would likely promote agricultural crises in the future.

A modicum of flexibility with respect to both branchlines and grain issues must be retained in order to improve the efficiency of the grain transportation network, while, at the same time, preserving the viability of producers and processors of grain. Much of this flexibility would be lost if a single program, answerable to several masters, were enacted. The promotion of adequate rail capacity, for instance, should not be mixed up with questions concerning the maintenance of service in remote localities.

For further information contact Norm Thompson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN CATTLE PRICE AND SUPPLY PROSPECTS

Alberta A1 and A2 steer prices are forecast to be in the mid-$80 range during the spring and early summer.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, David Walker, expects the supply of fed cattle in Canada to be relatively tight until the 1981 calf crop starts to reach market weight in significant numbers. He bases this opinion on the January 1 inventories of steers and heifers for slaughter and that have been slaughtered since the beginning of the year.

The Canadian cattle herd was estimated at 12.25 million head on January 1, 1982 or less than one per cent larger than it was a year earlier, and Statistics Canada estimates that the composition of the herd has not changed dramatically during this period. The most prominent change appears to be the distribution of the calf crop between Eastern and Western Canada. Statistics Canada indicates that there were over 100,000 fewer calves in Eastern Canada and about 100,000 more calves in Western Canada on January 1. Western retention appears to be particularly pronounced in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Walker says that after the 1981 calf crop has reached market weight by mid-summer, the cattle situation will be difficult to pin down. In terms of numbers, the 1981 calf crop on January 1, 1982 was no larger that it was in 1980, but it probably went on to feed later than the 1980 crop because of last winter's adverse weather conditions. As a result of this situation, Mr. Walker believes that the cattle market may be on an import basis for longer than would normally have been the case. He says this will certainly be the situation if cattlemen, fearful of a break in the price, continue to market their cattle at lighter than normal weights.

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Canadian Cattle Price And Supply Prospects (cont'd)

On the basis of straight slaughter figures and trade in live animals, it is likely, says Mr. Walker, that Canada will be close to being on an import basis with the United States during the spring and early summer, particularly in the East. Such a situation suggests prices for A1 and A2 steers in Toronto of above $90 per hundredweight and Alberta prices in the mid-$80 range.

The United States Department of Agriculture data suggest that the 1981 early season calving percentage is indicative of a high percentage of replacement heifers and a continuation of the expansion phase of the cattle cycle. In view of this and assuming current or lower interest rates, some general improvement in economic conditions in the United States, and the continual marketing of cattle at lighter weights, Mr. Walker expects A1 and A2 steer prices in Calgary to average close to $80 per hundredweight during the third quarter of this year.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE AND SUPPLY PROSPECTS

Prices of 100 index hogs at Edmonton are expected to reach the $90 per hundredweight level by July and to average close to that level during the third quarter of the year.

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that the January 1 Statistics Canada/Agriculture Canada hog inventory and quarterly forecast suggests that the contraction phase of the Canadian hog cycle is continuing at a relatively modest pace.

Canadian production declined by one per cent during the first quarter of the year, with all the cutback taking place in Western Canada. Breeding herd numbers and farrowing intentions suggest a 2 to 3 per cent cutback in marketings for the balance of 1982 with most of the reduction occurring in Eastern Canada. However, Alberta marketings are expected to stabilize during this period after having declined by 7 per cent during the 12-month period that ended on March 31, 1982.

According to Mr. Walker, almost a quarter of the breeding herds in the United States have been liquidated during the past two years, and supplies of pork in that country will continue to decline over the balance of the year. This will provide support for the Alberta market.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL LIME AND MARL

There are now two government programs that farmers whose soil is acidic may be able to take advantage of. One is the Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance (ALFA) Program and the other is the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) Range and Soil Improvement Program.

Under the ALFA Program a farmer, after having paid the first $5.50 per tonne to transport lime or marl to his farm from the quarry, is eligible to receive a grant that will cover 80 per cent of his remaining transportation costs. The rate for a short haul (less than 160 km) is 9 ¢ per tonne-kilometre and the rate for a long haul is 7¢ per tonne-kilometre. These rates may be adjusted at six month intervals.

Farmers can apply for this grant through their district agriculturist. They should bring a copy of the paid invoice showing freight costs, the bill(s) of lading and their weigh scale tickets.

Under the Range and Soil Improvement Program an individual farmer can get a $10,000 loan that is guaranteed by the Agricultural Development Corporation, which he can use to purchase or to apply lime or marl if a soil test shows that his soil is acidic. This loan is eligible for an incentive payment of $70 per $1,000 over a five year period. To be eligible for one of these loans a farmer must obtain a lime requirement test report from a soil test laboratory and submit it to his district agriculturist for approval of his project. More detailed information on this program can be obtained from ADC offices and district agriculturists.

According to Adolph Goettel, head of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch, the main acidic soil areas are in the Peace River region, western and northern Alberta (Rocky

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Financial Assistance For Agricultural Lime And Marl (cont'd)

Mountain House — Barrhead) and east-central Alberta (Drumheller — Castor — Coronation) He also says that nearly one million acres of cropland in the province are strongly acidic, which means that they have a pH of below 6. They were acidic before they were brought under cultivation and most have become more acid as a result of the application of nitrogen fertilizers. And an acid soil will reduce the yields of alfalfa, barley and canola crops.

Mr. Goettel reports that more than 60 applicants have purchased 5,000 tonnes of lime or marl since the ALFA Program was introduced in June 1981. Application rates vary from one to four tonnes per acre and one application can last for 10 years or more.

Mr. Goettel also says that there is only one source of ground limestone in Alberta at the present time, but that other sources are expected to be available before long.

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIME TO VACCINATE YOUR HORSE

Although an outbreak of western equine encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness) in Alberta horses is not an annual event, such outbreaks do occur, and the only sure way to protect your horses is to have them vaccinated every spring.

Dr. Jane Pritchard of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary laboratory in Fairview reports very effective inactivated virus vaccines are available for protecting horses against this potentially deadly disease. However, she points out that they must be used at the right time of the year to ensure protection during the potential equine encephalomyelitis season, which in Alberta is during August and September. This means that horses in this province should be vaccinated by a veterinarian in May and June. Those that are vaccinated later may not have enough time to develop sufficient protection if an outbreak should occur. Dr. Pritchard says that several weeks are required for the necessary level of immunity to build up.

She also says that the effects of western equine encephalomyelitis in horses can range all the way from a mild fever to death within two days. Symptoms include fever, impaired vision or blindness, an irregular gait, wandering, circling, lack of coordination, yawning, teeth grinding, drowsiness, a drooping lower lip, an inability to swallow or stand, paralysis and death.

The diagnosis of the disease in a live animal is based on a physical examination, and the examination of two serum samples, taken 10 days apart. The samples are tested to see whether the horse is forming antibodies against the equine encephalomyelitis virus. A post mortem diagnosis is based on the microscopic examination of the animal's brain and isolation of the virus.

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Time To Vaccinate Your Horse (cont'd)

According to Dr. Pritchard, birds are the most common reservoir of the equine encephalomyelitis virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, especially the *Culex tarsalis*. This species is known to carry the virus and to feed on both birds and mammals. Because the disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, it is seasonal and most prevalent in late summer. Dr. Pritchard says new cases cease to appear after the mosquito population has been killed off by frost.

She also says that many birds can be infected with the virus without showing any signs of illness. Called reservoir hosts, these birds perpetuate the virus from one year to another. However, there are other birds, such as redwing blackbirds, cardinals, sparrows, cedar waxwings and captive Chinese pheasants, which usually die after they have been exposed to the disease. Mosquitoes that have become infected from a sick bird remain infected for life, says Dr. Pritchard, and the virus can actually multiply in the insect.

Western equine encephalomyelitis can affect people as well as horses, however both species are known as dead end hosts. In other words, after having been infected by a mosquito, they cannot give the virus to another mosquito.

Dr. Pritchard says the virus seems to cycle naturally in birds and mosquitoes and then, for some unknown reason, to spill over into the human and horse populations. She reports that one such spillover occurred on the Prairies late last summer, and that many horses were infected. Several died in both Alberta and the other Prairie provinces.

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPTIMUM RESULTS FROM A CATTLE BREEDING HERD

A cattleman's objective during the breeding season should be to manage his cows and bulls in such a way that he obtains the best conception rate possible.

Here is Ross Gould's idea of the type of manager that could achieve this objective. Mr. Gould is head of the special project section of Alberta Agriculture's cattle and sheep branch.

Such a manager, Mr. Gould says, will keep his eye on his bulls to make sure that they are getting the cows bred -- injuries to bulls during the breeding season are relatively common. And he will keep his cows distributed over the feeding area during the breeding season to keep their level of nutrition high. He will also mark any cows that did not calve or that lost their calves, and he will make sure that his cattle always have access to a mineral-salt mixture which has an adequate level of phosphorous to maintain the fertility of the herd. In many parts of Alberta, the provision of a trace mineral salt that contains copper, zinc and manganese has improved herd performance. District agriculturists have information on the areas where trace mineral salts are needed.

Paying attention to the following points will also help cattlemen achieve an optimum performance from their breeding herds.

. Reproductive performance is quite poor in cows on low level energy rations during the last trimester of pregnancy. Cows with an adequate or high level of nutrition have an excellent reproductive performance.

. A sound health program and good nutrition are necessary for any breeding program, but they are even more important in an artificial insemination (AI) program.

. A higher detection rate has been observed in cows in heat before noon than during the afternoon and evening. Shortly after sunrise a special effort should be made to detect estrus.

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Optimum Results From A Cattle Breeding Herd (cont'd)

- One of the more important management decisions in an artificial breeding program is the length of the breeding season and the use of clean-up bulls

- Proper facilities are essential to an AI program. They can be very simple or very elaborate.

- Estrus synchronization with prostaglandins has the potential of improving artificial insemination programs with cattle.

- An estrus synchronizing program will not enhance overall pregnancy rates, increase conception or benefit reproductive performance in non-cycling or subfertile cattle. This is particularly true when poor management is responsible for the condition of the cattle.

- Income and labor use can both be improved by shortening the calving season.

- Reproductive efficiency has a greater impact on the economic returns from cattle than any of the more highly heritable traits.

- Fertility records (percentage of calves born and weaned) are the easiest of all performance records to keep. And they reflect the level of management and environment more accurately than any other records.

- Bulls are purchased to improve the genetic merit of the offspring.

- Performance is influenced more by environmental factors than genetic factors.

- The early calf is more valuable economically to the enterprise than the late calf.

There is a need to improve the genetic potential of the early calf. In herds where bulls are rotated genetically superior or proven bulls in a bull battery should be turned out first.

May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN GRANT INCREASED

This year's grant under Alberta's Market Garden Development Grant Program has been increased to $750 for one hectare or 10,000 square metres (2.47 acres or 107,640 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit. Last year's grant was $500 for two or more acres of vegetables and/or fruit.

The Market Garden Development Grant Program was initiated in 1976 to increase market gardening in the province by providing assistance to growers in the form of grants to be used for buying seed, fertilizers, gardening equipment, etc.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of one hectare. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program or the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year. Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants must file an application by July 1 with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FOOD PRODUCTS EXHIBITED IN SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group is joining forces with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the British Columbia Department of Industry and Small Business Development and the Canadian High Commissions in Singapore and Hong Kong in the organization of a Canadian exhibit at the Food and Hotel Asia '82 Bi-annual Exposition in Singapore from May 18-21. It will be followed by a Canada Food Show at the Furama Hotel in Hong Kong from May 24th to 25th.

Seventeen companies will make up the Canadian exhibitors' team, five of which will be from Alberta. They are: Bee Maid Honey, Burns Foods Ltd., Canbra Foods Ltd., Canada Safeway Export Market Development and the Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

During the shows in Singapore and Hong Kong, influential importers will be invited to a provincially-sponsored Canadian reception where they will be able to sample the food products, including the high quality Alberta beef that will be featured.

For further information contact David Clarke or Wilf Walker, International Marketing, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4241).

May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE WALL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

If you visit an Alberta farmers' market you can get a free wall calendar that lists the products and events that are scheduled to take place at these markets throughout the province.

The calendars, which run from May 1982 to April 1983, were produced by Alberta Agriculture, and are based on information that was supplied by managers and stallholders at the markets. The calendars show the opening and closing dates of 100 markets that are located throughout Alberta in addition to such special events as bedding plant sales, children's days and Christmas markets.

And each month the calendar features a product that is in season for that month and a recipe. July's recipe is radish soup, while September's recipe is tomato-pear chutney.

The farmers' market calendars are also a guide to local specialties. You can, for example, buy a hand-made clock or a wood carving at the Wetaskiwin market, German and Ukrainian food at the Thorsby market and homespun wool at the Spruce Grove market.

If you flip through the calendar, you will find an assortment of useful information on such things as how to cook green tomatoes, the locations of markets which offer native leathercrafts and a list of markets that are open all the-year-round.

The easiest way that you can get one of these unique calendars is to ask for one at your closest farmers' market. However, if you do not have a farmers' market in your area, contact the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 10045 - 111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta (Telephone: 427-4004).

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May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOTANIC GARDEN EVENTS

Do you love to be out-of-doors in the summer time? Are you a nature lover? Have you heard about the tours and workshops that the Devonian Botanic Garden holds each spring and summer? The garden is located 5 km north of Devon, which is approximately 30 km southwest of Edmonton.

Following is a list of the events that are still to come.

Garden Tours

"Spring Wildflowers at the Garden" is designed to teach participants how to recognize and identify flowers that grow wild in Alberta. This tour will also feature wild flower collections from the Rocky Mountains and southern Alberta.

"Plants the Native People Used" will feature living collections of some of the plants the native people used for food and medicine.

"Useful and Ornamental Herbs". Participants will tour the herb garden and learn how easily herbs can be grown in a northern climate as well as about their many uses.

"Summer Wildflowers at the Garden". This tour will be similar to the spring wildflower tour except participants will see a different group of flowers.

Gardening

"Rock Garden Construction" is designed to provide participants with ideas for designing a rock garden and information on where to obtain the necessary materials, etc. The course will include a tour and a discussion of the botanic garden's own rock gardens.

Crafts

"Natural Plant Dyeing" is an introductory workshop in the art of dyeing fibre with natural plant materials. There will be a lecture on methods of collecting the dye materials,

- (cont'd) -

Botanic Garden Events (cont'd)

mordanting procedures and dyeing techniques, which will be followed by a weekend of practical experience.

"Photography for Young People" is intended as a creative approach to teaching children between the ages of 10 and 14 the basics of operating a 35 mm camera. It will include practical photographing exercises in the botanic garden.

"Honey Extraction". Participants in this workshop will learn how to use smokers, blowers, chemicals, de-cappers and simple honey extractors and strainers. Honey packaging and storage as well as the overwintering of hives will also be covered.

Nature Study

"Wild Edibles" will cover the identification and gathering of edible plants that grow in the botanic garden. The class will include a sampling session during which recipes and plant uses (beverages, foods and medicines) will be discussed.

"Mushroom Hunting for Beginners" will cover the characteristics of the main species of edible fungi found in the area. Poisonous species and symptoms of mushroom poisoning will also be discussed as will be the preparation of mushrooms and recipes that feature mushrooms.

"Mushroom Identification" is an introduction to the biology, ecology and distribution of the main groups of mushrooms that are found in Alberta. Emphasis will be on identification, the use of keys, literature about the different groups and the uses of fungi.

Because the above tours, courses and workshops emphasize developing practical skills, enrolment will be limited which means that anyone who is interested should get his or her registration in as soon as possible.

More detailed information on the tours and programs, as well as information on dates and fees can be obtained from the Devonian Botanic Garden registrar at 987-3054.

May 17, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST FOR GRANDE PRAIRIE

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Jocelyn Muir to the position of regional home management specialist at Grande Prairie.

In her new position, Ms. Muir will provide information and educational materials and staff training in the areas of home management, consumer education and family resource management for district home economists in the Peace River and Barrhead regions.

She comes from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and obtained her B.H.Ec. from the University of Manitoba in 1972. The following year she obtained an education certificate, and she graduated with a B.Ed. in 1976.

Ms. Muir taught high school home economics in Winnipeg for six years, and was president of the Manitoba Home Economics Teachers' Association from 1977 to 1978.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LENDING RESULTS 1981 - 1982

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the corporation's lending results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982.

Total direct farm lending amounted to 1,550 loans and $225 million (1,299 loans and $179 million in 1980 - 1981). Of this total, 1,290 loans were made to beginning farmers for $193 million (1,007 loans and $145 million last year). Guaranteed farm lending totalled 4,581 loans and $65 million (5,448 loans and $72 million last year).

Total direct and guaranteed farm lending for the yar was $316 million, representing a 20 per cent increase in dollar volume over the previous year. Agribusiness lending was more than double that of the previous year with 37 direct loans for $12 million, and 20 guaranteed loans totalling $14 million.

Mr. Hanna said that loans to beginning farmers represented more than 80 per cent of all direct farm lending. The corporation's preferred rate for direct farm loans was maintained at 12 per cent during the year despite the unprecented high interest rates that prevailed throughout the conventional lending industry. Incentives earned by Alberta farmers under the Corporation's various incentive programs totalled nearly $13 million during 1981 - 1982.

The increase in direct agribusiness lending was achieved despite an increase in the preferred lending rate to 15 per cent. The corporation intends to continue its support for the secondary processing and service sectors of the industry, and the staff of the agribusiness lending section is being increased.

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ADC Lending Results 1981 - 1982 (cont'd)

Mr. Hanna indicated that there was a decline in the number of guaranteed loans in 1981 - 1982, which he attributed to the very high rates charged by conventional lenders throughout the year.

ADC's lending operations are funded through the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 GUIDE TO CUSTOM RATES

To help both custom operators and those who hire custom operators, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just released the 1982 "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates".

As its name implies, it is intended as a guide; it is not intended to establish a "going custom rate". The format is the same as in previous years, and the new costs are based on a limited survey of farm machinery dealers' (February, 1982) list prices.

According to Gerd Andres, an agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, the publication calculates individual cost items for different sized machines that are used in major field and livestock operations. And it provides a breakdown of fixed and variable costs for common farm implements in table form as well as worksheets to help farmers calculate their individual machinery costs. Mr. Andres stresses that it is important that farmers and custom operators calculate their custom operating costs to arrive at a fair market rate. He says every operation has different reasons for charging (or paying) different rates.

The publication also contains a summary of the range of custom rates charged in 1981.

Copies of the 1982 "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates" (Agdex 825-4) can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP AND LAMB SITUATION

Alberta lamb prices during the second quarter of this year are expected to range between $73 and $76 per hundredweight (live) as a result of the continuous rise in beef and pork prices.

Debbie Thorsen, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the lamb slaughter volume during the first quarter of 1982 was well above the 1981 level, and that the cumulative Canadian slaughter volume from January through March was up by 7 per cent compared with the 1981 level. In Alberta it was up by 27 per cent. While the volume of slaughter animals increased, live lamb imports declined by 24.2 per cent.

The number of sheep and lambs on farms in Canada on January 1, 1982 was 2 per cent above what it was at the same time in 1981, and most of the increase was in the one year and older age category.

Ms. Thorsen says the sheep and lamb market is expected to follow seasonal trends during the remainder of 1982.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of April, 1982.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREATED GRAIN CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT CAN CAUSE DISASTER

Don't take a chance! Thoroughly clean any equipment that you use for handling treated grain before you use it on any other grain including feed grain, advises Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

He points out that the results can be disastrous if equipment that is contaminated with seed dressing chemicals is used to handle feed. Two years ago an Alberta farmer lost over 20 head of cattle when he used the same auger to move feed grain that he had used on his treated seed without first having thoroughly cleaned it.

Mr. Dolinski says a good way to clean an auger, truck box etc. is to wash it down thoroughly with a strong solution of soap and water. The soap and water will clean equipment that has come in contact with any fungicide or with the dual purpose seed dressing chemical lindane.

As an added precaution, Mr. Dolinski advises anyone who uses a chemical seed dressing to wear a mask if there is any chance of inhaling dust and to be sure to wash off any dust or liquid seed dressing chemical right after he has come in contact with it.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNIVERSARY FEEDERS' DAY

The University of Alberta is holding its annual Feeders' Day at the University Farm on June 10. It is being held there rather than in another area of the province, as has been the case over the last few years, to mark the university's 75 anniversary.

Following is a list of topics that will be discussed.

. Beef Cattle Research at Kinsella (M.H. Makarechian) will review the beef cattle breeding project and research results at the University Ranch at Kinsella over the last 22 years.

. B-vitamins in Ruminant Nutrition (G.W. Mathison) will cover experimental results in which feedlot cattle diets and beef cows' straw-based diets were supplemented with B-vitamins.

. The Influence of Management and Behavior of Feedlot Bulls on Meat Quality (M.A. Price) will deal with a number of techniques that have been tested at the University Farm to minimize stress related meat quality problems in bulls.

. Forage Evaluation for Ruminants (L.P. Milligan) will outline a new approach to the use of acid detergent insoluble nitrogen values in estimating the available protein in forages.

. Effects of Cold Environments on Farm Animals (R.J. Christopherson) will deal with the effects of cold stress caused by a low temperature and a combination of a low temperature and wind as well as the consequences of the prolonged exposure of farm animals to a winter environment. The main emphasis will be on the effect of environment on such things as weight gain and the use of feed energy by livestock for maintenance and production.

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Anniversary Feeders' Day (cont'd)

. Agricultural Potential of Wild Ruminants (R.J. Hudson) will cover the main obstacles to game farming and ranching in Alberta which are conservation legislation, limited supplies of breeding stock and limited credit.

. Feeding and Management Practices that Affect the Survival and Growth Rate of Suckling Pigs (F.X. Aherne) deals with such topics as the use of farrowing crates to reduce the mortality rate in baby pigs, the supplemental feeding of pigs of less than average weight at birth, the use of induced farrowing, cross-fostering, oral vaccination, creep feeding, age, and source of iron treatment, etc.

. Protein Nutrition of Dairy Cattle (J.J. Kennelly) will cover a new protein system for ruminants that has recently been adopted by the Agricultural Research Council of England. It is based on protein degradability and has many advantages over the crude protein system that is currently being used in Canada. Dairy farmers will be invited to get involved in applied research at the farm level so that the scientists can acquire the necessary data to allow the widespread application of the system in Alberta.

. Production of Roaster Chickens (A. Shires) will deal with a study carried out at the University of Alberta to determine the effect on the performance and carcass quality of broiler and roaster chickens of feeding a low protein diet from when the chickens hatch until they are three weeks of age. The aim of the study was to see if feeding a low protein diet during the initial growth stage would reduce the incidence of leg disorders and mortality by slowing the rate of development of muscles and bones.

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Anniversary Feeders' Day (cont'd)

. Digestion and Amino Acid Availability for Pigs (W.C. Sauer) will outline the basic knowledge that can be obtained about the digestion and absorption of nutrients in pigs that have been fitted with intestinal and pancreatic cannules and the practical application of these data. The modified nylon bag technique, designed for the rapid determinations of nutrient digestibility of feed in pigs, will also be discussed.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. at the University Farm (116 Street and 68 Avenue in Edmonton) on June 10. Further information can be obtained from A. Stephen at 432-2343.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORELS -- A GOURMET'S DELIGHT

Most mushroom connoisseurs say there is nothing so exciting as finding a hundred or more morels at one's feet during a stroll through the woods.

Often these same connoisseurs say that among the many edible mushrooms, none can top the morel for flavor and versatility. It has been sought as a delicacy in Europe and Asia for centuries and it can be found in most parts of Canada.

Morels look like sponges on sticks and grow in wooded areas from late spring until about July. They can also be found in cultivated soil and in grassy places.

Because of their spongy consistency, morels hold a large amount of liquid and they absorb any flavoring that is added to them. Apparently few culinary experiences can match that of eating expertly prepared morels. The simplest way to cook them is to slice the caps and stalks and then to sauté them in butter for eight to 10 minutes.

In parts of Europe people thread morels and other mushrooms on long strings and hang them in the kitchen to dry. However, this method is not very practical in the modern house. The best way to dry them under modern living conditions is to spread them on screens placed on a collapsible clothes rack. Put one to three 200-watt light bulbs under the screens and enclose the whole apparatus in a fireproof canvas apron. Such a device can dry 4.5 kg of morels in 48 hours.

If you would like to know how to identify morels, how to collect them, how to cook them and how to preserve them ask your district agriculturist or district home economist for the federal publication entitled "Morels -- A Gourmet's Delight" (No.1581). It can also be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL IN LAWNS

The best time to use a herbicide on your lawn to control dandelions and other weeds is in the fall because good control can be achieved at that time of year with a minimum of risk to susceptible garden plants.

However, if you want to treat your lawn in the spring, try to do it before susceptible garden plants have emerged and before susceptible bedding plants have been set out.

Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, warns that extreme caution should be used when using herbicides in the garden because most perennial and annual flowering plants and many shrubs are very susceptible to herbicide damage.

When applying a herbicide to your lawn, he recommends that you use a low pressure applicator or better still a watering can. He says that foam aerosal applicators can be used to treat small individual patches of weeds with little or no risk of drift and that hand or knapsack sprayers are available for treating larger areas.

Never use a herbicide in your garden on a windy day or when the temperature is above 25 ° C. If spraying is done under either of these conditions, the drift is likely to injure susceptible plants in the vicinity. The evening and the early morning are usually the best times to spray.

Another worthwhile precaution, recommended by Mr. Esau, is to cover susceptible garden plants with newspaper or plastic sheeting before spraying.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT DISEASE CONTROL IN THE HOME GARDEN

The use of resistant vegetable and ornamental varieties in a home garden is an excellent way of controlling diseases, according to Dr. Ron Howard who is a plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

If certain diseases are known to occur in your area, try to purchase plant varieties that are resistant to those diseases. For example, varietal resistance is the best way of controlling vascular wilts which survive in the soil for many years and cannot be controlled by protective fungicides. To control tomato wilts look for seed that is marked "VF" which means *Verticillium* and *Fusarium* resistant. Other diseases that are best controlled by planting resistant varieties include cabbage yellow and potato scab.

Dr. Howard advises against planting your own seed because many disease-causing organisms are seed-borne. He recommends purchasing all seed and transplants from a reliable seedman or dealer who has a reputation for selling high quality, disease-free seed and plants.

Fungicide-treated seed will often help to avoid disease and disappointment in the home garden. The main objectives of treating seed are to kill disease-causing organisms on the seed and to protect the seed and seedlings from certain disease-causing organisms which live in the soil.

You can buy the treated seed of some plants. Dr. Howard says it is usually colored red or some other easily identifiable color and that the container will be marked "treated". On the other hand, if you have bought untreated seed, you can treat it yourself with a recommended chemical like thiram (Arasan, Thiram, etc.) or captan (Captan 50W, Orthocide 50W, etc.), but be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.

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Plant Disease Control In the Home Garden (cont'd)

The best way to treat large-sized vegetable seed is to put it into a jar, spread the required amount of chemical over the seed, and shake or rotate the jar until the seeds are thoroughly coated.

To treat a small paper packet of seed, tear off one corner of the packet, put about twice as much chemical in the packet as you can pick up on the first centimetre of the flat end of a toothpick and shake the packet until the seed is thinly coated.

Dr. Howard stresses that seed treatment is not a cure-all, and that it is most effective when used in conjunction with crop rotation. Many disease-causing organisms will not survive for long in soil in which a different crop is grown. However, some of the wilt causing organisms like the tomato wilts and cabbage yellow are exceptions. Once the soil is infested with these organisms, it may remain infested for a long time, which means that the only method of control is to plant resistant varieties.

Most leaf diseases can be controlled by spraying or dusting the plants with an appropriate fungicide. Fungicides are most effective when applied before the disease appears. They should be applied weekly or at 10-day intervals, and the plants should be thoroughly covered. Most fungicides only protect plants against infection; they will not cure an infection that has already become established.

The decision regarding whether to spray or dust before a disease is observed as opposed to when the first symptoms appear will depend upon the type of disease involved and the plants involved. With most plants that are intended for food and some ornamentals, the occurrence of even a small amount of disease can render them useless. In such cases the chemical must be applied before the disease appears, while in cases where a low level of infection can be tolerated by the plants, the chemical can be applied after the onset of symptoms.

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Plant Disease Control In The Home Garden (cont'd)

Dr. Howard says home gardeners can often use a general purpose combination dust to control a wide variety of diseases and insects. Such products may be purchased as prepared mixtures or the ingredients may be purchased separately and mixed at home.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEEDLE BROWNING ON EVERGREENS

As the air temperature warms up foliage browning on evergreen trees that have suffered winter injury will become more apparent. In most cases browning is gradual but it can occur within a few days.

Dr. Ron Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Station in Brooks, says the color of the needles on evergreens that have been injured during the winter usually fades from green to light tan or reddish-brown, depending upon the species involved and upon the severity of the damage. In some cases only the tips of the needles turn brown and dry out, while in others the injured tree will lose most of its needles. They may be lost on specific branches, at the top of the tree, on one side of the tree or over the entire tree. Damage is usually irreversible and a severely injured tree may eventually die.

According to Dr. Howard, drought, sunscald and freezing are the main causes of winter injury to evergreens and there are several factors that can intensify their effects. These are lack of plant tolerance, lack of moisture, improper fertilization, rapid changes in temperature, a poor planting location, dry winds and late spring frosts.

Dr. Howard says a tree that is only slightly damaged may respond to early spring irrigation and fertilization, which will stimulate new growth. This new growth will fill in areas where small branches, twigs and needles have been killed. However, a severely damaged tree may require extensive pruning or reshaping or have to be replaced.

Dr. Howard also recommends fertilizing evergreens in the early part of the season and making sure that they have plenty of moisture during the summer. He says that an anti-

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Needle Browning On Evergreens (cont'd)

desiccant can be used on many species of evergreens to slow down the loss of water from their foliage. Some anti-desiccants can also be used to reduce sunscald during the summer and to reduce transplant shock.

Dr. Howard recommends providing some type of protection from the sun for young evergreens that are growing in an exposed location or growing close to a building. Such protection could be a dark wooden fence or burlap covering. In addition to shading the tree, it will reduce moisture loss.

Finally, in the late fall soak evergreens trees by allowing a small stream of water to flow around their bases for several hours. Shallow-rooted species should be irrigated twice in the fall, and the watering routine should be repeated on all evergreens early the following spring.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANDELION SALAD

Have you ever eaten a dandelion salad? If you have not, this might be a good time to try one or to use dandelion leaves as a substitute for spinach.

According to Alberta Agriculture's assistant food specialist, Helen Raynard, young tender dandelion leaves make a delicious salad, and they contain large amounts of vitamins A, B, C and E. Mature dandelion leaves are equally nutritious but they develop a bitter taste as they mature.

When collecting dandelion leaves, you should cut off the plants at the root crown so that you get a cluster of leaves that fold together. If you wash them first in lukewarm water, you will find that the dust etc. will come off more easily. Then wash them in cold water as you would any other leafy vegetable.

After you have washed the leaves, drain them and put them in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator to crisp. Do not leave any water on the leaves.

You can garnish a dandelion salad with grated hard-boiled eggs, radishes, onions or tomatoes as you would with a lettuce or spinach salad and you can use a salad dressing.

Ms. Raynard says you can make a wilted dandelion salad by pouring hot bacon dripping over the crisp leaves and garnishing them with a little crumbled bacon.

If you want to use young, tender dandelion leaves as a substitute for spinach, you would cook them in the same way as you would cook spinach. However, if you use mature leaves you should change the cooking water twice to remove the bitter taste.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 ALBERTA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

June 15 is the deadline for nominations for the 1982 Alberta Achievement Awards.

Each year individuals and groups of Albertans who have made an out-of-the-ordinary contribution to the enrichment of life in the province through education, the arts, the humanities, the sciences, sports or agriculture are honored under this program.

There are three categories under which people can be nominated. They are excellence, service and performance awards.

The excellence awards are open to individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions or attained exceptional achievements in a professional/occupational capacity on a national or international level. However, consideration is also given for extraordinary professional/occupational achievements or contributions over an extended period on the provincial level.

The service awards are open to individuals and groups who have given exceptional voluntary service, normally extending over a period of 10 years or more, which has had a broad impact at the national, provincial or wide regional level.

The performance awards are open to Alberta residents who competed as representatives of Alberta in sports and non-sports fields during the period from June 1, 1981 to May 31, 1982 inclusive and:

(a) placed first in the Canadian national competition, sanctioned by the national governing body, which declares the Canadian Champion is a given field, or

- (cont'd) -

1982 Alberta Achievement Awards (cont'd)

(b) placed first, second or third in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, or the world competitions, sanctioned by the international governing body, which declares the World Champion in a given field.

You can get more information on the 1982 Alberta Achievement Awards and nomination forms from the Achievement Awards, Government of Alberta, Alberta Culture, 14th Floor, CN Tower, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J OK5 (Telephone: 427-8665).

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGER, AGRIBUSINESS LENDING

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the appointment of Robert Thompson to the position of manager of agribusiness lending.

In addition to his responsibilities for supervising and directing the agribusiness lending section of the corporation, Mr. Thompson will be responsible for managing and monitoring of the corporation's agribusiness portfolio, researching the credit needs of the agribusiness industry, and recommending and subsequently implementing new or revised programs and policies.

Mr. Thompson is a member of the Canadian Credit Institute and a registered industrial accountant. He comes to the corporation with considerable experience in the credit field, having previously held positions as credit manager and insolvency administrator for Ontario-based financial consulting firms. He was also an executive director with the financial division of the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation and has held various other positions in credit-related fields.

With his expertise in industry and finance, Mr. Thompson will be a valuable member of the corporation's management and an asset to the Camrose community.

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May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM IMPLEMENT ACT ENGINEER APPOINTED

Bob McFadyen, head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering field services branch, has announced the appointment of Allen Krahn to the position of engineer with the farm implement act administration.

Mr. Krahn is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Mechanical Engineering and has recently been a field service representative with the tractor and equipment operation division of the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

In his new position he will be responsible for administering the act as it relates to parts, warranty and service problems, as well as for the supervision of inspectors under the act and the licensing of farm machinery dealers and distributors in Alberta. He will also act as secretary to the Alberta Farm Implement Board.

Mr. Krahn's office is located in the Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (427-2188). Inspectors are located in Olds (556-8421) and in Edmonton (427-2189).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL AND WATER ENGINEER APPOINTED

Paul Barlott, head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering resources branch, has announced the appointment of Augustus (Archie) Archampong to the position of soil and water engineer.

This is a specialized engineering position related to soil and water management systems. The main duties include developing, implementing and maintaining programs related to farm water supplies, water distribution, water treatment, drainage, erosion control and sewage disposal.

Mr. Archampong was born in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, and grew up in a farming district where the seasonal distribution of water and erosion problems posed a constant challenge.

He graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) with honors from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana in 1971, having majored in agricultural engineering. He then came to Alberta to attend the University of Alberta where he majored in soil and water conservation engineering. He graduated with an M.Sc. (agricultural engineering) in 1975.

From 1971 to 1972, Mr. Archampong worked for the Ministry of Agriculture in Ghana as an agricultural engineer. The following years were spent at the University of Alberta until 1976 when he returned to Ghana again. From then until 1979 he was employed as a lecturer in soil and water engineering by the University of Science and Technology.

In the spring of 1979, Mr. Archampong immigrated to Canada and spent the summer working for Alberta Agriculture as a field project coordinator. From the fall of 1979 until the spring of 1980, he worked as a project assistant with the Western Irrigation District at Strathmore, Alberta. And from May 1980 until his present appointment, he was employed as a water rights engineer with Alberta Environment.

May 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK MARKET ECONOMIST APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, David Walker, has announced the appointment of Gordon Herrington to the position of livestock market economist.

Mr. Herrington comes from Salisbury, Zimbabwe and was educated in Zimbabwe, England, and the Republic of South Africa. He obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Natal in the Republic of South Africa in 1963 and a post graduate diploma in management studies from the British Institute of Management in 1973.

Between 1964 and 1967, Mr. Herrington worked for the then Rhodesian Ministry of Agriculture as a farm management economist. The main part of his work involved cost of production surveys and farm record projects related to tobacco, maize and cattle production. He then worked as a livestock economist for livestock commodity associations which operated under the direction of the Commercial Farmers Union. In 1978 he became chief economist for the Commercial Farmers Union, and was responsible for staff work on all aspects of agricultural economic activity that affected farmers.

JUN

AGRI-NEWS

May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPARATE BRANCHLINE AND GRAIN SUBSIDIES

Two major conceptual difficulties cloud the development of separate branchline and grain subsidy programs. The first involves separating branchline costs from those of hauling grain when the majority of the branchline traffic is predominantly the movement of grain. The second concerns the calculation of a subsidy level once branchline costs have been determined.

Generally subsidization is only appropriate when improvements in total social welfare may be achieved by having the taxpaying public at large share the cost of supporting an otherwise unprofitable operation.

The branchline specific subsidy may be used to dampen the effects of the transition to more effective resource utilization (closing of some branchlines and relocation of elevators or inducing the movement of other traffic to share the cost of the branchline). A combination of government intervention (statutory rates) and indirect and partial subsidy (branchline subsidy payments) creates a situation where the railways may receive greater total revenues for providing a less economic service, thereby creating incentives for resource misallocation. Given the choice, railways would now opt for branchline elevators so that a portion of the grain transportation cost is covered. To remove this preferential treatment for branchlines would be the value of the grain subsidy.

With separate branchline and grain subsidies, the railways would make service decisions based on market economics. Separate treatment of branchlines would make the rate more similar on branch and main lines, thereby reducing the incentive to abandon.

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Separate Branchline And Grain Subsidies (cont'd)

If the subsidy is not partitioned between that allocatable to grain transportation and that attributable to low-density lines, the eventual result could be that the nominal subsidy could drop below that required to fully compensate the railways for branchline maintenance. At that point the shippers could be paying the entire cost of transporting grain and an additive for maintaining the uneconomic portions of the railway branchlines.

Grain and branchline policy should accelerate the drive towards elevator consolidation and relocation. Primary determinants of operational efficiency in elevators are the capacity and handling-to-capacity ratio. Larger elevators tend to be more efficient with lower costs per tonne handled than smaller elevators. Current policies have not provided incentives for rationalizing branchline structure and statutory rates have not encouraged efficiencies in grain handling such as multiple car loadings, etc.

For further information contact Norm Thompson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICKEN MEAT OUTLOOK

Although Canadian chicken consumption was sluggish during the first quarter of 1982, prospects for increased consumption during the remainder of the year appear very favorable, says Terry Appleby, dairy and poultry economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

He points out that a continued high stock level and a 97.3 million kg CCMA quota allotment for the second quarter of the year (about one per cent higher than that of last year) will mean an ample supply of chicken meat in the short term. This situation suggests that chicken will continue to be strongly featured by retailers at the expense of wholesale and retail profit margins.

Another opportunity Mr. Appleby sees for increased chicken consumption is the reduction in pork supplies that are forecast for the coming months, which will inevitably mean higher pork prices. Although they will make chicken a more attractive buy, the potential for an increase in chicken consumption will depend upon industry price adjustments to establish a normal profit margin.

Because the current chicken stock level in Alberta is lower than it is in the rest of Canada, there should be less pressure here to move supplies at discount prices. And with a provincial economy that is still stronger than the national economy, Mr. Appleby expects consumption to remain firm and to allow production, in percentage terms, to increase considerably more here than in Canada as a whole.

Prices received by Alberta broiler growers during the first quarter of this year remained unchanged at 113.5 ¢ per kg, which was 4 per cent higher than the 109 ¢ per kg they received in April 1981.

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EGG SITUATION

The Canadian egg industry faces the prospect of a national quota increase this fall as a result of a very firm table egg demand during the first quarter of 1982.

Terry Appleby, dairy and poultry economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that table egg sales in the first quarter of this year were 6.5 per cent above last year's level, and that they appeared to be gaining momentum as the Easter season approached. This situation, coupled with lower Canadian egg imports and the 3 per cent quota reduction that was implanted last November, has led to a general tightening of egg supplies which could necessitate the quota increase in the fall.

Mr. Appleby says the situation in Alberta is similar to that in the rest of Canada although the demand for table eggs has been even stronger here. He reports that egg sales were up by 9.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period in 1981 and that they have been out-pacing the growth in supplies. The result has been that the movement of eggs into the province during this period has increased by almost 22 per cent, while the movement of eggs out of the province has dropped by about 10 per cent.

Alberta egg producers were receiving 95¢ per dozen for grade A large eggs on April 1 of this year or 7¢ per dozen less than they were receiving in April 1981. And egg prices in general dropped by a further 2¢ per dozen during the first quarter of 1982.

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERTICILLIUM WILT IN ALFALFA

Alfalfa growers who suspect that they may have verticillium wilt and who would like to have their alfalfa crops inspected should contact their district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman. If verticillium wilt is found in a field, the owner will be given information on controlling it.

Dr. Ron Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says it is important to know the fields in which the disease has become established because of the confinement/eradication strategy that is fundamental to checking its spread. He also says that staff members at the research center in Brooks and staff members at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lethbridge will be combining forces this summer in an all-out search for verticillium wilt-infected fields in southern Alberta.

According to Dr. Howard, the disease is already well established concentrated in the southern part of the province. Last year it was evident in 22 of 114 fields surveyed and was found to be in the Lethbridge-Coaldale-Picture Butte region. This area accounted for about 1,400 acres, and all the infected fields were irrigated to produce alfalfa for hay, silage or pasture.

Dr. Howard explains that in the absence of well-adapted resistant alfalfa varieties, the control strategy in Alberta for verticillium wilt has been concentrated on confining the disease to farms where it is known to occur and then attempting to eradicate it by plowing down the infected crops. "This strategy", he says," has been well received as evidenced by the fact that about 80 per cent and 47 per cent of the infected acreages discovered in 1980 and 1981 respectively had been plowed under by the fall of 1981."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA/ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL FOOD PROMOTIONS

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group, in conjunction with Canada Safeway's export development division in Edmonton, has arranged a series of Canada/Alberta food promotions that will be held in international supermarkets this year.

The first one, to be called "Canadian Appreciation Week" will be held in 44 Safeway stores in the Spokane area of the United States.

The second, to be called "Canada Week" will take place in 11 Safeway stores in Hawaii.

And the third, to be called "Canada Fortnight" will be held in 99 Safeway stores in Great Britain late this fall.

According to Barry Mehr, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister for international marketing, this is the first time that any of these promotions have been held in the above mentioned places. In addition to beef and pork, a dozen or more processed food products that originated in Alberta and the other Western provinces will be featured.

Mr. Mehr says it is anticipated that other Safeway divisions will follow suit and embark on similar promotional campaigns if these three are successful.

He also says this is just the beginning, and is, in part, a direct result of the Food Show that the four Western Canadian provinces organized for Safeway executives at Lake Louise, Alberta last September. The international marketing group's ultimate goal is to have a permanent listing of Alberta's food products with Safeway in the United States, the European Economic Common Market, Australia and Saudi Arabia as well as with other supermarkets around the world.

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONING FEEDER PROGRAM

Do you know that Alberta Agriculture has a program called the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program that is designed to recognize cattlemen who seriously try to improve the health status and performance of their calves and feeder cattle through preconditioning?

Preconditioning involves preparing calves and feeder cattle to withstand the stress they must undergo when they leave the farm or ranch. Its goal is to improve performance and minimize sickness and death losses which often result when young cattle are sold and go into a feedlot.

To qualify under the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program, calves and feeders must have been dehorned, castrated, vaccinated for blackleg and red nose (IBR) and treated for warbles at least three weeks before they are sold. They must also have been weaned for 30 days, they must be identified by an official eartag and they must be accompanied when sold by a certificate stating that the above requirements have been fulfilled. The certificate has to be signed by the owner and a veterinarian.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, Dr. Terry Church, reports that 9,200 calves were preconditioned under the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program last year and that 5,100 of these were sold at seven special sales. He says that the preconditioned steers that were sold at these sales received an average premium of $4.04 per hundredweight and that heifers received an average premium of $2.66 per hundredweight. He also says that the weight gains of these calves, which had been weaned for the prescribed 30-day period, increased prior to the sale by one to 1.5 pounds per day. And he points out

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Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program (cont'd)

that this increase in gains combined with a decrease in shrinkage between the time the cattle leave the farm or ranch and arrive at the sale, means that a cattleman can increase the selling weights of his calves by as much as 40 to 60 pounds per head. The extra feed and other costs involved in preconditioning have been estimated at about $30 per head.

An-after-sale follow-up on calves that were sold through the special sales showed that the number of animals that had to be treated for sickness in the feedlot was between 40 and 50 per cent lower than was the case with calves which had not been preconditioned. According to Dr. Church, 80 per cent of the feedlot operators who purchased preconditioned calves indicated that they started on feed quicker than calves that had been recently weaned, and that the preconditioned calves had no problems starting on feed.

Because the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program requires advance planning to properly prepare the calves, Dr. Church recommends that cattlemen who are interested in participating in it start by dehorning, castrating and vaccinating their calves for blackleg during June and July. He says that present indications point to a substantial increase in the number of calves that will be preconditioned this year as well as to a substantial increase in the number of special sales for preconditioned animals.

Anyone who would like more information on the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder Program should contact his district agriculturist, regional cattle specialist or veterinarian.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDLOT COWBOYS' SCHOOL

The 10th annual Feedlot Cowboys' School, sponsored by the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, will be held at Olds College in Olds on June 10 and 11.

Registration, which will take place from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m., will be followed by a talk on "Heifers in the Feedlot" by Dr. Terry Church, head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch.

Other topics, workshops and demonstrations on the agenda will be:

- Calving Problems by Dr. Hans Flatla, chairman, animal science, Olds College
- Computer Workshop by Gary Fisher, agricultural economist, Alberta Agriculture, Olds.
- Drug Usage (combination of antibiotics, withdrawal times) by Dr. Robin Knudsen, animal health instructor, Olds College.
- Practical demonstrations involving the proper implanting procedures for Synovex and Ralgro, treatment techniques for drugs and vaccines and cattle hoof trimming. The demonstrations will be conducted by representatives of Synovex and Ralgro, Olds College staff and Tim Barton of Olds College, respectively.
- Marketing Cattle in the United States by John Carnine, Sirocco Feedlot Ltd., Lethbridge; Roger Holt, Dri-Land Feeders Ltd., Warner; and Marland Larter, Larter Feeders, Picture Butte.
- Pen Checking by Dr. Terry Church and Casey Kokke, Thorlakson Feed Yards, Airdrie.
- Calfology (the science of starting calves in the feedlot) by Robin Elofson, Parkland Feeders Ltd., Ponoka.
- Immunity by Dr. Hans Flatla.
- A practical demonstration of farrier techniques by Tim Barton.

The school will conclude with a panel discussion and question period. And dinner on the first day of the school will be followed by a special pack horse demonstration by Tim Barton.

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Feedlot Cowboys' School (cont'd)

The registration fee of $50 per person covers the two-day school, lunches, the reception, the banquet and a booklet containing the talks.

Accommodation will be available at Olds College at $15 per person per night for double occupancy and $25 per person per night for single occupancy.

Further information can be obtained from the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association. The telephone number is 276-4533.

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A HIGHLIGHT FOR ALBERTA 4-H'ERS

A send-off dinner, sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, will be the beginning of a 10-day highlight in the lives of Alberta 4-H'ers, Sandra Sheehan of St. Albert, and Greg McNary or Bittern Lake.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has been sponsoring two Alberta 4-H delegates to the Indiana State 4-H Junior Leadership Conference and the State 4-H Roundup since 1968, and its representative this year will be Jim Mills of Edmonton. He will be hosting the send-off dinner.

The day after the dinner Sandra and Gregg will take to the skies and after having arrived at Purdue University, they will join about 300 junior 4-H leaders for a four-day conference. The conference will be followed by a weekend spent visiting 4-H'ers in one of the nearby counties.

Sandra and Greg will return to Purdue University on June 28 to participate in the State 4-H Roundup, which will be attended by more than 3,000 4-H'ers from Ontario, Alberta, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Indiana.

Sandra and Greg were chosen to represent Alberta at the Indiana State 4-H Junior Leaders Conference and the State 4-H Roundup on the basis of their outstanding involvement in 4-H in their communities. Thanks to the Imperial Bank of Commerce's sponsorship program, they will have an opportunity to learn about 4-H in other places, to make new friends and to see countryside that is very different to their own.

For further information contact Wendy Tomilson, 4-H Summer Exchange Co-ordinator, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie, Alberta, TOM OBO (Telephone: 948-5101).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWING SAVORY HERBS

If you are growing savory herbs for the first time, it is a good idea to start with only a few of the popular and easily grown ones. Later you can add others that need more attention or that have special uses.

One short row of each of the annuals and about half a dozen plants of each of the perennials are enough for most families. You should make your herb garden in a protected place that gets the full sun, preferably near the house. In addition to having culinary value, some herbs are both ornamental and fragrant.

Most herbs will grow satisfactorily on a well-drained sandy loam soil, but a few, like mint and parsley, will do better in soil that has good drainage but retains its moisture.

Herbs need some fertilization but most of them seem to do better in a poor soil than in very fertile soil. If, for example, the soil is very rich in nitrogen, the plants will grow vigorously, but the large leaves may not contain enough of the essential oils that are needed to provide flavor and fragrance.

When planting annual or biennial savory herbs, apply about the same amount of fertilizer and manure as you would apply for a good crop of beans. Since perennials will remain in the same location for several seasons, they will do best if you apply well-rotted manure or compost plus 560 kg/ha of superphosphate to the soil before you plant them.

You can sow the seeds of annual and biennial herbs and of many perennial herbs in the garden when the soil has warmed up and the danger of frost is over. However, the seeds of herbs that are more difficult to grow should be started in a greenhouse.

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Growing Savory Herbs (cont'd)

Herbs that are seeded in the garden should be planted at the recommended depth in a well prepared seedbed. The seeding rate will be easier to control if you mix small seeds with cornmeal or sand.

To propagate plants like chives and garlic, divide the crown clumps into individual plants or separate the bulbs and replant them. This is best done in the spring to give the plants time to become re-established before winter.

Few of the savory herbs are attacked by diseases or insects, particularly in a small garden. And fresh herbs are at their peak in quality from August to September.

Since most of the flavor of herbs comes from their volatile oils, which are in small glands in the leaves or seeds, they should be harvested when these oils are at their best. In the case of leaves, this is usually just before the flower buds open, and, in the case of seeds, it is usually when their color changes from green to brown but before any shelling occurs.

An illustrated federal publication entitled "Growing Savory Herbs" (Agdex 263/20-1) describes some of the more common savory herbs and gives information on growing, harvesting and using them. In Alberta it can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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May 31, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MENU PLANNING FOR BACKPACKERS

When planning a backpacking trip be sure to allow yourself enough time to plan your menu carefully, and make a calendar of the days that you will be away, including those you will spend travelling to and from your starting point. Note on this calendar each day's menus.

Catherine Sinnott, Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist at the home economics laboratory in Edmonton, says any menu planning for backpackers must take into consideration three important points which will affect all subsequent plans. They are food safety and weight and water.

. Safety — Choose foods that can be safely stored without refrigeration. And reduce the risk of food poisoning by avoiding fresh milk and milk products and raw cooked or vacuum packed meat, poultry and fish. You may take cheeses, butter and margarine if you put them in tightly sealed containers and use them within the first day or two.

. Weight — Choose foods that are as light as possible. Those that have been dehydrated to some extent are the best choice because the water content of food accounts for most of its weight.

. Water — Remember you will have to carry all your drinking water on a backpacking trip through a dry area. It will weigh about one kilogram per litre, and you may need from four to five litres per person per day or as much as nine litres per person per day, depending upon temperature, humidity and physical activity.

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Menu Planning For Backpackers (cont'd)

With these three factors in mind you can now select your food for your trip. Ms. Sinnott suggests you start by referring to Canada's Food Guide and noting that it recommends an adult eat the following foods each day.

2 foods from Milk and Milk Products

2 foods from Meat, Fish, Poultry and Alternates

3 foods from Breads and Cereals

4 foods from Fruits and Vegetables

Choose foods such as those listed below to meet the requirements suggested in the guide.

Meat, Fish, Poultry and Alternates

- Beef Jerky
- Canned Meats
- Dried Sausage Sticks - Hot Rods
- Sardines
- Powdered Eggs
- Nuts and Seed mixes (peanuts, sunflower seeds, etc.)
- Beans

Milk and Milk Products

- Skim milk powder
- Hot chocolate mix
- All firm cheeses
- Grated parmesan
- UHT milk

Breads and Cereals

- Quick cooking or converted rice
- Pasta
- Bread
- Whole grain cereal
- Rolled oats, granola
- Pancake, muffin and biscuit mix
- Crackers

Fruits and Vegetables

- Fresh fruit
- Dried fruits (apricots, raisins apples, bananas, prunes)
- Dehydrated vegetables (carrots, peas, potato flakes)
- Dried soup mixes
- Frozen juices, UHT juices

When you have met the basic requirements outlined above, add more servings from the four food groups to meet your body's need for additional calories and nutrients when it is involved in physical exertion.

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Menu Planning For Backpackers (cont'd)

Ms. Sinnott says such things as potato chips, chocolates and candy, called the "extras", are acceptable for providing extra calories (they contribute few nutrients), providing the appropriate servings from the four food groups listed in Canada's Food Guide have been eaten first.

Measure out your food requirements for each day and package them separately so that the maximum amount of planning and preparation is done at home.

Meal patterns often change during a backpacking trip. According to Ms. Sinnott, many hikers prefer to spread their meals evenly throughout the day rather than to eat the traditional three meals a day. She says it helps them to avoid feelings of sluggishness and fatigue that can result from overeating. And remember it is important to eat something early in the day to provide you with the necessary energy to get off to a good start on your hiking expedition.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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only when realized by the taxpayer. The taxpayer was able to prorate any proceeds that accrued between the return of the original cost or the V-Day value, the receipt of the tax free portion of the capital gain and the receipt of the taxable portion of the capital gain.

Example

Prior to November 12, 1981, Farmer A sold his farm land to a neighbor for $95,000. The land had originally cost him $35,000 in January, 1972. His sale resulted in a capital gain of $60,000 and a taxable capital gain of $30,000. He received a $5,000 down-payment, and he will receive $10,000 a year, plus interest, for next nine years.

The First Year

$$\text{Capital Gain Reserve} = \frac{\text{Balance of Principal Unpaid}}{\text{Total Transfer Price}} \times \text{Taxable Capital Gain} =$$

$$\frac{90{,}000}{95{,}000} \times 30{,}000 = \$28{,}500$$

The net taxable capital gain reported by the farmer in the first year is:

Taxable Capital Gain	$30,000
Less Capital Gain Reserve	$28,500
Taxable Capital Gain Reported:	$ 1,500

The Second Year

$$\text{Capital Gain Reserve} = \frac{\$80{,}000}{\$95{,}000} \times \$30{,}000 = \$25{,}200$$

The net taxable capital gain reported by the farmer in the second year is:

Capital Gain Reserve in First Year	$28,500
Less Capital Gain Reserve in Second Year	$25,200
Taxable Capital Gain Reported:	$ 3,300

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Farm Vendor Financing — Is It Extinct? (cont'd)

Under the provision of the latest amendment, the taxable portion of the capital gain will be brought into income first as proceeds are received. In other words, a dollar received represents an entire dollar of taxable income rather than a portion of taxable and non-taxable income. Furthermore, a five year (family farm 10 years) capital gain reserve mechanism is also in effect to ensure that no less than one-fifth (one-tenth) of the full taxable gain is included in income in the year of disposition and in each of the following four (nine) taxation years.

If the sale proceeds received are more than one-fifth (one-tenth) of the taxable gain, the reserve will be reduced by the amount received. Hence, a taxpayer who receives cash proceeds equal to or greater than his taxable gain in the year of disposition will not be able to claim any capital gain reserve whatsoever.

The significant aspect of the December 18 amendment is that the larger the down-payment received, the smaller the capital gain reserve available to the farmer. When a farmer receives an amount of over half the taxable capital gain, no reserve will be available for tax purposes.

Example:

Using the same sale except that Farmer B sells his land after November 12, 1982.

The First Year

In 1982 the maximum reserve available to the farmer is the lesser of:

(a) $\frac{\text{Taxable Capital Gain}}{\text{Maximum Term}} \times \text{Remaining Term} = \frac{\$30,000}{5} \times 4 = \$24,000$

(b) Taxable Capital Gain — Proceeds Received = $30,000 - 5,000 = $25,000

The net taxable capital gain reported by the farmer in the first year is:

Taxable Capital Gain	$30,000
Less Capital Gain Reserve	24,000
* Taxable Capital Gain Reported	$ 6,000

**Although the farmer only receives $5,000 cash, his taxable income must be at least one-fifth of the taxable capital gain e.g.* $\frac{\$30,000}{5} = \$6,000$

- (cont'd) -

Farm Vendor Financing – Is It Extinct? (cont'd)

The Second Year

In 1983 the maximum reserve available to the farmer is the lesser of:

(a) $\frac{\$30,000}{5} \times 3 = \$18,000$

(b) $30,000 - 15,000 = $15,000

The net taxable capital gain reported by the farmer in the second year is:

Capital Gain Reserve in the First Year	$24,000
Less Capital Gain Reserve in Second Year	$15,000
Taxable Capital Gain Reported	$ 9,000

In 1985 the reserve will not be available because the farmer will have recovered the $30,000 taxable gain. As stated above, the first dollars received for income tax purposes are applied to the taxable gain, which means that the total gain is recognized for tax purposes before any of the remaining amount is deemed to have been recovered.

When comparing the two examples, Farmer A and Farmer B receive the taxable capital gain of $30,000 as follows:

	Before Budget	After Budget
	Farmer A	Farmer B
Year 1	$ 1,500	$ 6,000
Year 2	3,300	10,000
Year 3	3,150	10,000
Year 4	3,150	4,000
Year 5 - 10	3,150	---
Total Taxable Capital Gain	30,000	30,000

In summary, Farmer A receives and pays tax on his taxable gain over 10 years, the term of the sale agreement. While Farmer B is deemed to have received his taxable gain over 3.5 years and is, therefore, required to pay his tax over this period.

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Farm Vendor Financing -- Is It Extinct? (cont'd)

Conclusion On The Use of Reserves

The new method of calculating capital gain reserves now requires that the receipt of money under a deferred payment plan be applied first to the taxable portion of any outstanding amount of debt rather than being prorated as was previously the case. Consequently, entering into an agreement that allows for such deferred payment can result in a much greater tax exposure for the vendor in the initial years of the agreement. This means that he must be sure to retain a sufficient cash flow in the initial years of the agreement to pay off any tax liability and still be able to live comfortably on the remaining balance.

While there are various approaches that can be taken when selling property, a person planning such a transaction might consider the following alternatives.

- Set up the sale so that you receive the taxable amount of the capital gain in the first five (10) years with the balance coming due in the year the capital gain reserve effectively disappears.
- Enter into more than one agreement so that you sell the property over more than one taxation year.
- Consider the purchase of replacement property which qualifies under the replacement property provisions of the Income Tax Act, and thereby defer any capital gain recognition.

However, before you enter into any agreement, be sure to obtain competent tax advice from an accountant or a lawyer.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE GIANTS SPUR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Baymag Mines Co. Ltd., will receive $598,582 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement to help it build a $3 million plant that will crush and process magnesite ore for use as an animal feed supplement.

According to the company president, Jack Ondrack, the ore will be trucked to the plant from deposits in the Rocky Mountains, and production will replace products that are currently being imported from the United States. The new plant is expected to employ 26 workers within three years.

Two other firms have also received assistance under the nutritive processing agreement. They are Bouma Meats Ltd., of Provost and United Feeds, the largest supplier of processed feeds in Western Canada and a division of United Grain Growers Ltd.

Bouma Meats Ltd., will receive $29,009 to help defray the costs of a new freezer, cooler, pickling room, sausage-making facilities and two new smokehouses. The total cost of the project is estimated at $146,000.

United Feeds will receive $13,446 to modernize its feedmill at Camrose. The financial assistance will be used to help pay for the construction of eight bins and the installation of a higher capacity pulverator and a new grain-cleaning system. The total cost of the project is estimated to be $75,000.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is cost-shared by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture. More than $16 million in financial assistance has been given to nutritive processing firms in rural Alberta since the agreement was signed in 1975.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Executive Director, Rural Development, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4287).

June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPTAN USES TO CONTINUE

by Dr. Moe Hussain
Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture

A federal committee appointed to study the controversial evidence surrounding the fungicide captan recommended to the federal Agriculture Minister, Eugene Whelan, that use of the fungicide be continued. The recommendations were made public this week by the minister, one month after he had been handed the full report by the Consultative Committee on IBT Pesticides, a nine-man committee made up of independent experts in the relevant scientific disciplines such as environment, human health, and plant sciences.

Captan was one of a group of 100 pesticide chemicals which were found in 1977 to have been improperly tested for safety by Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories (IBT), a U.S.-based chemical testing company. Captan is the most widely used fungicide on apples, pears, peaches, small fruits and vegetables in Canada. Captan is also used around the home as a pre-plant and foliar spray to prevent plant rotting. In 1981, new safety data on captan revealed that the fungicide caused intestinal cancer in small mammals when given in very high doses. In response to this finding, Health & Welfare Canada recommended to Mr. Whelan that captan be banned from domestic use, and that, when used in agriculture, no trace of the chemicals be found on fruits and vegetables at the retail level.

The consultative committee, in its recommendations, pointed out that current evidence did not demonstrate that captan caused cancer, birth defects, or hereditary changes in humans. The following recommendations were proposed.

- that captan remain available for household use but that the risk potential be clearly stated on labels of all domestic products to allow consumers to make an informed choice;

- (cont'd) -

Captan Uses To Continue (cont'd)

- that minimum pre-harvest intervals be increased to 7 days;
- that captan level in fruits and vegetables be much reduced;
- that captan level in foods be monitored more frequently; and
- that consumers be informed of the need to wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly.

The consultative committee pointed out that all safety aspects of captan were not fully understood at this time, but some questions might be resolved by studies soon to be completed. Thus, the committee would like to see a re-evaluation of these recommendations after two years.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM DEADLINE

July 1 is the deadline for receipt of applications for 1982 awards under the Graduate Student Research Support Program. The awards will come into effect on September 1.

The Graduate Student Research Support Program was established in January of this year and is a sub-program of Farming for the Future. Designed to support and encourage graduate student research in the agricultural sciences, it will provide financial support in the form of awards to approved graduate student research projects that relate to Alberta's agricultural industry. However, the proposals must fall within the general conditions outlined in Farming for the Future's terms of reference.

Under the Graduate Student Research Support Program awards of up to $10,000 will be available for each approved project via an open competition. An award winner may compete for a renewal of his award, but he or she will not be eligible to receive more than two awards for one project.

Awards may be used for purchasing equipment, materials and supplies as well as for travel, computer services, printing, manuscript preparation and reproduction expenses.

Awards can be used to cover thesis research costs, but they cannot be used as bursaries or stipends. However, an award winner is free to seek and accept a bursary or stipend from other sources.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or be landed immigrants who are enrolled in a graduate program in the agricultural sciences at a recognized university in Alberta or at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. And they must possess

- (cont'd) -

Graduate Student Research Support Program Deadline (cont'd)

a baccalaureate degree or they must expect to receive such a degree before qualifying for a research award.

Anyone interested in applying for an award under the Graduate Student Research Support Program must submit an application to the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta. It must have been approved by, and it must be supported by, his or her thesis supervisor, department chairman and the dean of the faculty. And the application should be accompanied by a transcript of the applicant's marks as well as by two letters of reference, preferably from members of the research community who are capable of evaluating the applicant's potential as a researcher.

The deadline for 1983 applications is December 1, 1982. After this year that will be the deadline for all applications, and the awards will come into effect on April 1 of the following year.

Application forms and further information on the Graduate Student Research Support Program can be obtained from the Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Alberta, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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NEW THOUGHTS

New thoughts spring forth frail and vulnerable, like all things born anew, in search of nourishment and support, which, if not found, will allow them to wither and die, but, if found, will see them grow to spawn new thoughts.

john kienholz
Engineering Resource Branch
Alberta Agriculture

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION EXPECTED

The effects of changing statutory freight rates for grains will mean higher freight rates and lower farm gate prices for Crow grains. This will result in changes in the relative profitability of producing grains, oilseeds, specialty crops and livestock in Western Canada.

Farmers will make changes to their production patterns to reflect these changing price and cost relationships in order to maximize net incomes from their farming activities. However, farm income variability will continue to reflect annual fluctuations in markets and prices. A higher capacity grain handling and transportation system would permit farmers to deliver increased volumes of grain and this would lead to more stable marketing patterns.

When there is no longer a constraint on export deliveries of grain, farmers will increase deliveries and reduce their farm storage costs.

With the federal government covering the current differences between railway costs and receipts, the impact will be different depending on whether the government's contribution is made to the farmer or the railways. If the payment is made to the farmer, and is independent of future production levels or marketings, farmers will have an incentive to adjust their enterprises to minimize the impact of the new freight rates on their incomes. If the payment is made to the railroads with the farmer picking up future cost increases, this incentive will be reduced.

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Changes In Agricultural Production Expected (cont'd)

If freight rates and prices move together, or if commodity prices increase faster than freight rates, the impact on farm incomes will be much smaller than if the increase in commodity prices is less than the increase in freight rates.

In summary, farmers will be affected differently by changing freight rates and by how the payments by the federal government are made. Upgrading the transportation system will increase farmer opportunities and stabilize farm income to a degree. There will probably be a move away from straight grain farming to a more diversified approach involving special crops and livestock enterprises. This diversification and livestock production will help minimize the effects of changes in freight rates.

For further information contact Norm Thompson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC GENERAL MANAGER OF LENDING APPOINTED

J.H. Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the appointment of Larry Pinkoski to the position of general manager of lending.

In his new position, Mr. Pinkoski will be responsible for managing all financial assistance services to farmers and agribusinesses throughout Alberta. He will also be responsible for designing, implementing and directing the corporation's various loan programs.

Mr. Pinkoski brings to his new position many years of experience in the credit field. Most recently he was managing director of branch operations for the Belmont Credit Union Ltd. in Edmonton. Previously, he was with Guaranty Trust as western regional manager of consumer loans. He is a member of the Trust Companies Institute of Canada and a member of the Canadian Credit Institute.

Raised on a farm near Edmonton, Mr. Pinkoski has retained a keen enthusiasm for agricultural activities, and his practical knowledge of Alberta's farming community will be an additional asset to the corporation's management team.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMER ASSISTANT DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

Don Young, assistant director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointments of the following summer assistant district agriculturists.

Michelle Timko

Michelle Timko comes from a small farm near Brooks and is presently enrolled at the Guelph Agricultural College where she is studying agricultural economics. She will be working with Dave Cubbon out of Bow Island.

Nancy Paul

Nancy Paul was raised on a dairy farm in Ontario and is enrolled at the University of Alberta where she is taking animal science and range management. She will be working out of the Airdrie office where she will be spending part of her time with district agriculturist Ernie Smith and the remainder of her time with Larry Welsh who is the regional plant industry supervisor.

Irene Chauvet

Irene Chauvet is a native of Edmonton and is enrolled at the University of Alberta where she is taking animal science. Last year she worked on the University Farm, and this year she will be working with Dennis Strech at the Vulcan office.

Sonia Matichuk

Sonia Matichuk was raised on a mixed farm in the Vegreville area and is enrolled at the University of Alberta where she is studying plant and animal science. She will be working with Agnes Whiting at Provost.

- (cont'd) -

Summer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Murray Hartman

Murray Hartman was raised in a small town in British Columbia. He took one year towards his degree in agronomy at Washington State University and then transferred to the University of Alberta where he is presently enrolled in the agronomy program. He will be working with Ron Koots in Warner.

Carol Anne Bettac

Carol Anne Bettac was raised on a mixed farm near Fort Saskatchewan and is enrolled in the general agriculture program at the University of Alberta. She will be working with Harvey Yoder at the Lac La Biche office.

Eileen Chauvet

Eileen Chauvet was raised in Edmonton and is presently enrolled at the University of Alberta in the animal science program. She will be working with Fred Potrebenko at the Eaglesham office.

Joanne Kruschel

Joanne Kruschel was raised on a mixed family in the Tiger Lily area. She started to take pre-veterinary medicine at the University of Alberta but switched to animal science. She will be working with Dale Zobell in the Valleyview office.

Jayne Slinger

Jayne Slinger was born and raised in Edmonton. She also started to take pre-veterinary medicine at the University of Alberta and then switched to animal science and genetics. She will be working with Dave Spencer in Falher.

- (cont'd) -

Summer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Adele Reichert

Adele Reichert was born and raised on a mixed farm near Morden, Manitoba. She received her B.Sc. (agriculture) last year from the University of Manitoba where she majored in plant science. She will be working with Doug Walkey out of the Drayton Valley office.

Scott Meers

Scott Meers was raised on a dryland farm near Oyen. He graduated this year from the University of Alberta with B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in horticulture. Last summer he worked as a summer assistant district agriculturist in Lamont, and this summer he will be working with John Hladky at the Morinville office.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING APPOINTED

Don Young, assistant director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division has announced the appointments of the following people as district agriculturists-in-training.

Bill Strautman

Bill Strautman was raised on a large grain and beef farm near Speers, Saskatchewan, and he was active in 4-H and school and sports organizations during high school. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained a B.S.A., having majored in soil science.

Mr. Strautman will be training with Gordon Frank at Brooks.

Ted Ford

Ted Ford comes from a farm near Westlock. He attended Olds College and then worked for Alberta Agriculture as a farm management technician for four years. After that he attended the University of Alberta and graduated this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in agricultural economics. He spent the last two summers working as a summer assistant district agriculturist in Stony Plain.

Mr. Ford will be training with Jerry Jones at Vegreville.

Barbara Bennett

Barbara Bennett was raised on a farm near Dodsland, Saskatchewan. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1981, having majored in crop science. Prior to graduation, she spent two years working as a regional 4-H representative.

Ms. Bennett will be training with Jack Hazelwood in Three Hills.

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District Agriculturists-In-Training Appointed (cont'd)

Shane Dobson

Shane Dobson comes from a farm near Manitou, Manitoba. He graduated this year from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science. Prior to graduation, he worked with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture on their swine record of performance testing program.

Mr. Dobson will be training with Gary Berger at Athabasca.

Rod Carlyon

Rod Carlyon comes from a small farm near Okotoks. He graduated this year from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science. While at University he was the student representative on the Agriculture Faculty Council, and last summer he worked for Marathon Realty Co. as a field inspector.

Mr. Carlyon will be training with Miles Kuryvial in Grande Prairie.

Ken Ziegler

Ken Ziegler was raised on a large family farm near Stettler and graduated this year from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in the general program. Last summer he worked as a summer assistant district agriculturist in Airdrie.

Mr. Ziegler will be training with Marvin Nakonechny in Camrose.

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June 7, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Helmut Entrup, the farmers' advocate of Alberta, has announced the appointment of an executive assistant. He is Cliff Downey who brings to his new position many years of practical farming experience.

Mr. Downey took his elementary and high school education in Castor and then attended the agricultural college at Olds. He furthered his education in agricultural extension by taking courses at the University of Alberta.

Mr. Downey has been president of the local Farmers Union of Alberta, served as assistant commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Canada for his area and has been actively involved in church affairs.

He was elected member of parliament for the Battle River riding in the House of Commons in 1968 and served on finance, trade and commerce and agricultural committees. He also served as caucus chairman for Western agriculture.

He will be relinquishing his present positions of director of the Paintearth Gas Co-op, director of the Alberta Cattle Commission, director of the United Grain Growers and member of the Crown Grazing Land Regional Advisory Committee in the central part of the province.

In view of Mr. Downey's substantial experience in the practical side of agriculture and his awareness of agricultural concerns, it is expected that as executive assistant to the farmers' advocate, he will be able to make a valuable contribution in this field.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRICULTURE
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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURER IN HIGH RIVER

by Ron Selin
Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion

Willy Baumgartner's move from Hamilton, Ontario, to High River, Alberta, is not unusual in itself. He and his wife had originally come from Switzerland and High River's proximity to the mountains made them feel at home.

But Baumgartner did not come to High River for its scenery. He came to start a business and a rather unusual one at that — at least in the West. It is called Medivet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and when it started commercial production last year, it became the first manufacturer of veterinary products in Western Canada.

Baumgartner was plant manager at MTC Pharmaceuticals in Hamilton when he decided to go into business for himself. MTC Pharmaceuticals manufactures animal care products and Baumgartner wanted to start a similar operation somewhere in Canada.

Bernie Bullock, one of the partners in Medivet Pharmaceuticals in High River operating a powder packaging machine, which can produce 10,000 packages a day.

Western Canada seemed a logical place because it is the centre of Canada's beef industry and did not have veterinary products manufactured there at that time. Veterinarians and veterinary clinics in the West were getting all their supplies from either central Canada or the United States, and Baumgartner found them willing to support a Western Canadian manufacturer.

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Pharmaceutical Manufacturer In High River (cont'd)

A large percentage of these veterinary clinics are in the ranching country of southern Alberta, and High River is located in the middle of this ranching country. Also, by choosing High River, Baumgartner was able to remain outside a large city, and still be close enough to one to prevent transportation from becoming a problem.

And there was another benefit to be gained from locating in a rural area. It meant that he would be eligible to take advantage of the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement under which more than $16 million worth of financial assistance has been provided to eligible companies that have expanded, modernized or established nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta.

Medivet became one of more than 200 firms that qualified for one of these grants. And it received approximately $25,000 under the agreement, which is jointly administered and funded by the federal and provincial governments, to help with the construction of its $83,000 plant.

Baumgartner describes Medivet Pharmaceuticals as a "family business". He is the general manager while his wife, Anna, serves as bookkeeper. There is a third partner, Bernie Bullock, who is sales manager and who worked in the sales division of MTC Pharmaceuticals. He was familiar with the veterinary products market in Western Canada. Between the three of them, they bring to their new venture a combined total of more than 50 years of experience in the pharmaceutical business.

Medivet Pharmaceuticals manufactures, packages and labels a wide range of animal health care products at its High River plant. They include antibiotics, digestive aids and vitamin supplements, most of which are designed for cattle. However, some are intended for

- (cont'd) -

Pharmaceutical Manufacturer In High River (cont'd)

sheep and hogs. There is also a small market for drugs and food supplements for pets, and Baumgartner says his company is manufacturing about a dozen of these items.

All the products manufactured by Medivet are sold in either boli (large tablets) or powder form. The boli, which were previously imported from the United States, are very popular among farmers and ranchers in Western Canada because they are easy to administer to cattle on the range. Liquid products are brought in from Ontario and are packaged under the Medivet label. Baumgartner says "We are looking forward to producing our own liquid products when the economy is more cheerful".

At present Medivet employs two workers in addition to its owners, but within three years, Baumgartner expects this number to have increased to 17.

While cheerful may not describe the general economy at this time, it could be used to describe the outlook for Medivet Pharmaceuticals, which began commercial production of veterinary products only six months ago and already has 300 accounts. Baumgartner estimates that there is a potential market for 450 accounts in Western Canada.

The development of an industry in rural Alberta like Medivet Pharmaceuticals is an excellent example to other rural communities in the province of what can be achieved through careful planning, good management and hard work.

Further information on this and other projects can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Executive Director, Rural Development, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4287).

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ANNOUNCED

Alberta Agriculture has announced the start of construction of the Food Processing Development Centre in the Leduc Industrial Park.

Funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Capital Projects Division, the centre is expected to be completed in the fall of 1983 at a cost of $7.77 million.

Its aim is to increase the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the needs of the market place through innovation, the application of new technology and the development of new products and processes.

The centre will also help to strengthen market alternatives for Alberta's agricultural production, improve employment opportunities and lead to improved consumer products. It will apply basic research from universities and other research groups to industrial situations, and it will initially employ between six and eight people. This number will eventually increase to 15.

The Food Processing Development Centre is intended to complement, not duplicate, existing research and development establishments. And it will rely as much as possible on the services offered by Alberta Agriculture's food laboratory services branch, other branches, development groups from other departments and the University of Alberta.

Components and Capabilities of the Centre:

The centre will consist of four parts: a 10,000-square foot pilot-scale processing area, a product development and evaluation laboratory of 5,000 square feet, a maintenance and machine shop and an office.

The pilot plant will consist of a meat processing area built to facilitate federal Health of Animals inspections; a wet processing area for processing specialty foods, prepared

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Food Processing Development Centre Announced (cont'd)

foods, dairy products and vegetables; and a dry processing area for processing cereals. The product development laboratory will contain instrumentation, product development, microbiology and chemistry laboratories.

The centre will have pilot-scale equipment which duplicates that being used by industry, and the staff will be able to process food using either conventional methods or innovative techniques.

Initial equipment acquisitions for the centre will be those commonly used in many processes — size reduction, separation, heat transfer, materials handling, blending and preservation. And on-going purchases will ensure up-to-date process capabilities.

Examples of product and process developments that might be investigated at the Food Processing Development Centre include the shelf-life possibilities of controlled atmosphere packaging of fresh meats and cereal products; the application of retortable pouch technology to vegetables and meat; processing and recipe development for vegetable oil products, and the evaluation of plant proteins as supplements in processed foods.

The product development and process development sections of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural processing development branch will be located in the centre.

The Need for the Centre:

Because many small and medium-sized food processing firms in Alberta lack the expertise or the financial means to carry out product research and development, they either neglect product development or they may make commitments that are inappropriate for their financial, marketing or production capabilities.

These problems are not restricted to Alberta. To overcome them other provinces and many countries have centralized food processing development facilities that are attached to universities or associated with public research institutes.

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Food Processing Development Centre Announced (cont'd)

Equipped to serve the broad areas of meat, dairy products, oilseeds, specialty foods, vegetables, prepared foods and cereal products, the Alberta Food Processing Development Centre is unique in that it will be the only facility of its type that is operated by a provincial government.

For further information contact Dr. Bill Ballantyne, Head, Agricultural Processing Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9th Floor, 10045 - 111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1K4 (Telephone: 427-7325).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA FEEDING TRIALS TO BE CONDUCTED IN MEXICO

The first hog and poultry feeding trials ever undertaken with canola meal and sorghum will take place in Mexico in the near future.

Lou Normand, international trade director with Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group, says the performance of hogs and poultry fed canola meal and sorghum will be compared with the performance of hogs and poultry fed soybean meal and sorghum. He also says that the resulting information will be very useful to feed manufacturers, nutritionists and users of feed in Mexico and in much of Latin American as well as in many other countries.

The purpose of the trials, which are being co-ordinated by Dr. Donald Clandinin and Dr. F.X. Aherne, both of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science, is to provide further information on this feed to the Mexicans to help with the promotion of canola products in that market. Mr. Normand says there is an excellent potential market for canola seed and meal and, to a lesser extent, for canola oil.

The trials were initiated by Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group in conjunction with the Canola Council of Canada and under the Mexico-Canada Memorandum of Understanding between the ministers of agriculture in the two countries.

Dr. Ernesto Avila of the University of Chapengo, who has an international reputation in the field of poultry nutrition, will conduct the poultry trials in Mexico. And Dr. J. Soriano Torres, a research scientist with the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Research Group, will conduct the hog trials.

June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD OAT HERBICIDES AND CROP COMPETITION

Wild oat control results are much superior when post-emergence herbicides are used on wild oats that are competing with a crop than when they are used on wild oats that are growing alone.

This is the conclusion that Dr. M.P. Sharma of the Alberta Environmental Centre and Dr. W.H. Vanden Born of the University of Alberta came to after conducting two years of trials during which post-emergence herbicides were used on wild oats growing in barley and wheat crops and growing alone. The trials were conducted at the university farm at Ellerslie.

The herbicides used on the barley crops were Carbyne, Avenge and Carbyne plus Avenge. Those used on the wheat crops were Carbyne, Endaven, Hoe-grass, Mataven and Carbyne plus Endaven. All the herbicides were applied to the wild oats growing alone; and, in all cases, they were applied when the wild oats were in the two-leaf and four-leaf stages of growth.

The researchers have concluded from the results of these trials that greatly superior wild oat control can be achieved, regardless of the herbicide used, when it is applied to wild oats that are growing in competition with a crop compared with applying it to wild oats growing alone. Except for Hoe-grass which was applied to the wild oats in the four-leaf stage, none of the herbicides provided satisfactory wild oat control in the absence of crop competition.

Dr. Sharma says "It is evident from these findings that any factor or factors that increase crop competition (e.g. optimum soil fertility and optimum soil moisture conditions) should help to improve wild oat control with post-emergence herbicides."

He reports that results obtained with Avenge, Endaven and Mataven alone and when each was combined with Carbyne confirmed earlier findings that they control wild oats

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better when the wild oats are in the four-leaf stage then when they are in the two-leaf stage. However, Hoe-grass apparently gave excellent control of wild oats regardless of whether they were in the two or the four-leaf stage.

Dr. Sharma also reports that barley yields increased by 13 to 84 per cent in crops (depending upon the degree of wild oat control achieved) in crops that had been treated with herbicides compared with those that had not been treated. The herbicides that gave poor wild oat control resulted in there being little or no yield increase. The situation was similar for the wheat crops. The yield increase here ranged from 58 to 177 per cent compared with the non-treated crops. According to Dr. Sharma, Carbyne doubled wheat yields, while Hoe-grass and Mataven nearly tripled them.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON FAULTS IN BRANDING AND THEIR CORRECTION

The increase in Alberta's cattle industry over the last two decades plus the vast expansion of marketing facilities, the speed with which livestock are handled through markets and the broad application of community pasture grazing have greatly increased the need for better branding practices.

According to Alberta Agriculture's livestock investigations supervisor, Bernie Welch, cattle owners can usually identify poor brands on their own cattle. It is when the detection of ownership rests with somebody else that problems with poor brands usually arise. This somebody else could be a neighbor, a brand inspector or a policeman.

Mr. Welch says the five most common causes of a poor brand are irons that have been poorly constructed, irons that are too small, irons that have a face that is too narrow, improperly heated irons and the use of a liquid or acid brand.

He strongly recommends that the characters of branding irons used for branding cattle be 3½ to 4 inches high. And he says the handles should be made from a half-inch rod, which should be 4 feet long from the head of the iron to the handle loop. He also recommends that each character of a brand be made on a separate handle. If more than one character is placed on one handle, the characters will heat and burn unevenly. Also, the iron will tend to slip during the application of the brand and leave a distorted or blotched brand.

When branding irons are not in use they should be stored in a safe dry place so that they do not gather scale or rust. And the iron head should be cleaned with a wire brush or file as opposed to being banged against a post to clean it. If the head becomes worn down to a sharp edge, it should be discarded and a new one made.

The best way to heat a branding iron is in a fire made of dry wood, and the irons should be kept on top of the coals; not in the flames. The iron will be an ash grey color (not

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Common Faults In Branding And Their Correction (cont'd)

red) when it is the right temperature for branding. If it is too hot the brand characters will not be distinct. Mr. Welch says the branded area on an animal's skin should be a saddle-colored tan; not black. If the area is black it means that only the hair has been burnt because the iron was not hot enough, the face of the iron was not rounded enough or the iron was not applied for long enough.

The use of propane bottle and burner can also be used to heat branding irons. A steel drum or round pipe, designed in such a way that it will contain the heat thrown out by the burner, is recommended, and the irons should be placed in the container where the heat is pressurized. An oven is another suitable facility for heating branding irons. However, since these ovens are usually fueled by natural gas, they have a tendency to burn out branding irons quickly.

Mr. Welch says the hot iron branding method is the most efficient way to identify livestock, but that one of the main reasons it produces so many poor brands is because of its use by inexperienced people. It is difficult to prescribe a definite rule for the time the iron should be applied to the skin of animals being branded because of the difference in the thickness of their coats. However, if the iron is the correct heat, it should have to be applied to the skin for only three to five seconds, providing the animal has a light coat. Cattle which have a thick growth of hair should be clipped before they are branded to avoid having to apply the iron for a longer period of time.

Cattle can be branded at any age, but calves are easier to brand in the spring than in the fall because they have less hair at this time. Mr. Welch says it will be necessary to clip the branding area when branding is done in the fall unless the person doing the branding is very proficient.

Finally, never brand over another brand.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW WEED

Alberta has a new weed species!

According to G.W. Wheeler, plant taxonomist at the Alberta Environmental Centre, a weed submitted to the science section of the centre has been identified as purple dead-nettle *(Lamium purpureum L.)*. A native of Europe, it has been found in southwestern British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, but until now it has not been seen in Alberta.

Mr. Wheeler says the weed that has been identified as purple dead-nettle was reported as a general infestation in a barley field west of Edmonton in September of last year. Neither MPCA nor 2,4-D were able to control it, and since it was present as a general infestation, Mr. Wheeler feels that it has the potential of becoming a problem in this province.

He explains that purple dead-nettle is an annual weed that spreads by seed, and that it has a small taproot. It grows to a height of about 50 cm and is similar in size and growth habits to henbit.

The leaves grow in pairs on opposite sides of a square stem and have round-toothed margins. They are triangular in shape and from one to 3 cm long by 0.8 to 2 cm wide. The lower pairs of leaves are on long stalks and are widely spaced along the stem of the plants, while the upper pairs are densely crowded together and are on short stalks. The flowers of purple dead-nettle are purple, tubular in shape, one to 1.5 cm long and grow in groups at the bases of the upper leaves. And the entire plant may have a reddish or purplish tinge.

Mr. Wheeler asks any one who suspects that he may have this weed on his premises to take a specimen to his district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman to have it identified. "The information gained from such submissions" he says, "will help the weed specialist to evaluate the economic importance of purple dead-nettle in Alberta."

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSECT TRAPS TO BE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS

A company called Terochem Laboratories Ltd of Edmonton is preparing packages of pheromone traps and baits for farmers who want to do their own insect monitoring.

According to Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, the traps are the same for each type of insect but the baits are different, which means that a farmer who wants to monitor for bertha armyworms will use a different bait to a person who wants to monitor for cutworms. It is believed that the traps will be sold in packages of four and that the packages will cost about $30 each. Mr. Dolinski says one trap will be sufficient to monitor 50 acres of crop.

The traps will catch only adult insects. If no adults are caught, obviously the farmer will not have to worry about larvae attacking his crop. If, on the other hand, he catches a substantial number of adults, he will know that he must check his crop for larvae and he will know exactly when he must check it.

Mr. Dolinski says fruit growers have been successfully using pheromone traps in their orchards for a number of years, and that he has been waiting for the day when they would be available to farmers. Up to now farmers have had to rely on regional insect monitoring, the results of which are not necessarily accurate for an individual farm. When farmers have their own traps they will know exactly what the insect situation is in their crops and they will be able to plan accordingly.

Mr. Dolinski hopes that the traps will be available through farmer co-operatives this year, but it is possible that they may not be available until 1983.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCLEROTINIA CHECK LIST

The following check list for farmers who grow Argentine canola varieties is based on Alberta Agriculture research data that were obtained from a sclerotinia control project which was carried out last summer. It is intended to provide growers with a means of deciding whether or not it would be economical to spray their crops with a fungicide to control the disease. However, since the research is still in the preliminary stage, the check list should be used with discretion. For example, weather conditions following an evaluation could either increase or decrease the level of disease that was present.

The time to fill out the check list is when the crop is in the initial to early bloom stage (5 per cent flowers). When answering the first question, you would put down 15 points if more than 30 per cent of plants in that field or a neighboring field has been infected during the last two years. If, on the other hand, there had been no previous infection in or near the field during that period, you would put down zero.

Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops, who compiled the check list in conjunction with research scientists, points out that the suggested points for each section of each question are only guidelines, and that you may, for example, evaluate your soil's surface moisture (question 7) at seven points if you feel that it is between moist and wet. The same procedure applies to the other questions.

After you have put down what you feel are the appropriate points for each of the seven questions, you then add all the points together. Mr. Thomas says that from presently available information, it would appear that if you get 40 points out of a possible 70, you would likely find it economical to use a fungicide to control sclerotinia.

- (cont'd) -

Sclerotinia Check List (cont'd)

Now you are ready to evaluate your canola crop on the basis of the check list.

1) Was sclerotinia in or near the field in the past two years?

a) If a heavy disease level (+30% of plants)	- 15 points
b) If a moderate disease level (15% to 30% of plants)	- 10 points
c) If a light disease level (1% to 15% of plants)	- 5 points
d) No previous disease	- 0 points

—— points.

2) Does the stand have a good crop canopy?

a) If a very lush, heavy, dense, tall canopy	- 10 points
b) If a reasonable growth, medium height, fairly dense canopy	- 5 points
c) If an average growth, light density, open canopy	- 0 points

—— points.

3) Does the stand have a crop yield potential of?

a) Plus 30 bushels per acre	- 10 points
b) Plus 25 bushels per acre	- 3 points
c) Plus 20 bushels per acre	- 0 points

—— points.

4) Based on the stand at early bloom and your past experience with canola, rate how you feel the crop will lodge.

a) Greatly lodged	- 5 points
b) Moderately lodged	- 3 points
c) Lightly lodged	- 1 point

—— points.

If you have rated your field between 30 to 40 of the possible points for the first four questions, then carefully evaluate the next three questions which are governed by weather. If it is relatively dry (when your field is in the initial to early bloom stage), your

- (cont'd) -

Sclerotinia Check List (cont'd)

points for questions 5, 6 and 7 may be low. Hence, if it should rain shortly after you have done your evaluation, you would be wise to do another evaluation 24 to 48 hours later. According to Mr. Thomas, rain can drastically change the situation by causing the development of apothecia (small mushrooms) which, he says, are a very important stage in the life cycle of the sclerotinia fungus. They produce the spores which are most likely to cause infection in canola during a moist period at flowering time.

5) Are apothecia present in or near the field at early bloom?

a) Large numbers, easy to find in the field	- 15 points
b) Find 5 in 10-minute search at 3 sites in the field	- 10 points
c) Hard to find, but are present (1 in 10 minutes at 3 sites)	- 5 points
d) No apothecia present in or near the field	- 0 points

—— points.

6) How would you rate the top soil surface moisture?

a) Wet	- 10 points
b) Moist	- 5 points
c) Dry	- 0 points

—— points.

7) How would you rate the crop canopy moisture?

a) Plants wet or moist in the morning	- 5 points
b) Plants dry in the morning	- 0 points

—— points.

To show you how worthwhile spraying can be when an Argentine - type canola crop is seriously infected, Mr. Thomas cites the following results that were obtained when Benolate was used on a diseased field of Altex. The field was situated near Neerlandia and part of it was sprayed and part of it was left unsprayed as a check. The percentage of diseased

- (cont'd) -

Sclerotinia Check List (cont'd)

plants that were found at the end of the season in the unsprayed part was 72.5 compared with only 6.4 in the sprayed part. The percentage of dockage in the unsprayed part was 22 compared with 4 in the sprayed part, and the average yield in the unsprayed part was 14.3 bushels per acre compared with 39.7 bushels per acre in the sprayed part. Hence, in this case the increase in yield from spraying was 25.4 bushels per acre.

Mr. Thomas recommends that canola growers who are not sure how to identify sclerotinia and/or apothecia, contact their district agriculturist who has a complete description of the various developmental stages of sclerotinia.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRETON PLOTS FIELD DAY

Are you interested in soil acidity and liming or in seeing long-term fertilizer rotation experiments? Or are you interested in seeing some short-term experiments on nitrogen, phosphorous and sulphur? Or do you have questions about soils, fertilizers, weeds or crops that you would like to ask the specialists?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, you should consider attending the Breton Plot Field Day and Soils — Crops Clinic on July 2. This year's theme is Soil Acidity and Liming.

The Breton Plots are located about 110 km southwest of Edmonton on Gray Luvisolic soils, which are difficult to manage because of their poor physical condition, low nutrient status and acidity. The research that is being carried out on the plots was initiated in 1929 and some of the plots have been in existence since 1930.

The Breton Plots Field Day and Soils — Crops Clinic is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta.

Further information can be obtained from the Department of Soil Science, University of Alberta at 432-3242 or from Jim Robertson at 427-5346.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATE TRADE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETING GROUP

Douglas Hill has assumed the position of associate trade director with Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group for North Africa and East and West Europe.

In announcing Mr. Hill's promotion to associate director from senior marketing officer responsible for the grains, oilseeds, forage seeds and livestock feed commodity sector, Cliff Wulff, international trade director for North Africa and East and West Europe, noted that Mr. Hill's broad work experience with Alberta Agriculture and with the province's agricultural and food industry will be an important asset in his new position.

Mr. Wulff said "I am pleased to have Mr. Hill join me in Alberta Agriculture's promotional activities in Europe. These activities will include efforts on behalf of the primary commodity producers and exporters and food processors. And they will include assistance to agricultural and food consultants who are seeking offshore markets". One of Mr. Hill's first duties in his new role will be to lead forage seed missions to approximately six Western European countries.

Mr. Hill is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

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June 14, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR MARKETING OFFICER APPOINTED TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group has welcomed Robert (Bob) Prather to its staff.

Mr. Prather, who immediately became involved with a mission from China, is senior marketing officer responsible for the grains, oilseeds, forage seeds and livestock feed commodity sector. He replaces Douglas Hill who has been promoted to associate trade director for the European territory.

Mr. Prather joined Alberta Agriculture in 1975. After having held various positions with the department, he was transferred to the market analysis branch in 1979 where he remained until his present appointment.

He is a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, a member of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and a member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 1 3 1982

June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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one: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

June 21. 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN EVALUATION OF POTASSIUM CARBONATE TREATED FORAGE

The use of potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) to speed up the drying time of forage crops cut for hay is not recommended for Alberta at the present time. However, further research is needed before a final decision on the use of this technique under Alberta conditions can be made.

This treatment, which was discovered by Dr. J.N. Tulberg of Australia and is now being evaluated in a number of other countries, increases the water permeability of the waxy covering on the stems and leaf surfaces of forage crops. Hay that was sprayed with a solution of K_2CO_3 just before it was cut is referred to as K-Hay, and research to date shows that this treatment seems to have the greatest potential for use on alfalfa. It has not been very effective on clover and it is not applicable to grasses.

Two projects were carried out in the Barrhead area last summer by Alberta Agriculture's plant physiologist, Dr. Ed. Redshaw, and forage specialist, Ken Lopetinsky, to assess the use of K_2CO_3 under Alberta conditions.

The first project involved comparing the drying time of alfalfa which had been treated with K_2CO_3; crimped; and treated with K_2CO_3 in combination with crimping. It was found that the K_2CO_3 treatment and crimping reduced the drying time of alfalfa compared with the check strip about equally, and that a combination of the K_2CO_3 treatment and crimping further reduced it. However, these differences in drying time were recorded only on the surface of the windrows. No difference in drying times was recorded in the interior of the windrows, and in all cases the length of the interior drying time lagged far behind that of the surface drying time.

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An Evaluation Of Potassium Carbonate Treated Forage (cont'd)

The second project involved the same three treatments on alfalfa and also on red clover. Substantially larger windrow widths were used compared with those in the first project to facilitate more uniform drying. Again there was substantially no difference in the drying times of K_2CO_3 - treated alfalfa and crimped alfalfa, but in both cases they were shorter than the drying time of the check strip. Although the combined use of K_2CO_3 and crimping further decreased the drying time, the reabsorption of moisture from this combination was greater than it was from the use of K_2CO_3 alone and from crimping alone.

In the case of the red clover, there was no essential difference in drying time between the check strip and the K_2CO_3 - treated clover. Although crimping decreased drying time, there was no further decrease when it was combined with the K_2CO_3 treatment.

On the basis of research results obtained so far, Mr. Lopetinsky says the use of the K_2CO_3 appears to be mainly suited to alfalfa, and that the technique needs to be significantly modified before it can be used on red clover.

Based on these preliminary data, he also believes that any advantage that is gained by the use of K_2CO_3 compared with properly crimped hay is not sufficient to justify the cost of the chemical and the required sprayer modifications. And he points out that the time when the forage is baled is very critical when K_2CO_3 has been used. Since K_2CO_3 - treated alfalfa can attain a lower final moisture content in the field (less than 10 per cent) compared with crimped alfalfa hay, failure to bale it at the correct moisture content can result in severe over drying and an excessive loss of leaves.

Detailed information on the above projects can be obtained from Ken Lopetinsky Box 1540, Barrhead, Alberta, TOG OEO.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACTIVATED CHARCOAL REDUCES HERBICIDE DAMAGE

Did you know that activated charcoal can be used to prevent or reduce injury to horticultural crops growing in soil that was accidentally contaminated with a herbicide, or to crops that are to be planted in soil that was previously treated with a herbicide that would be injurious to them? It can also be used in greenhouses and nurseries and in cases where the establishment of a lawn or ornamental planting would be hampered by a herbicide residue in the topsoil.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says activated charcoal will reduce the level of most organic herbicide residues, but that it is not usually effective against inorganic herbicides like sodium chlorate, borax, etc. He reports that tests carried out in various parts of Canada and the United States have shown that the following herbicides can be effectively tied up by activated charcoal.

> 2, 4-D; 2, 4, 5-T; atrazine (Aatrex); chloramben(Amiben); aminotriazole (Amitrole T); dicamba (Banvel); dichlobenil (Casoron); chlorpropham (CIPC); dinitramine (Cobex); chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal); diphenamid (Enide); EPTC (Eptam); bromacil (Hyvar X); diuron (Karmex); pronamide (Kerb); alachlor (Lasso); Linuron (Lorox/Afolan); simazine (Princep); metribuzin (Lexone/Sencor); terbacil (Sinbar); monuron (Televar); picloram (Tordon); and trifluralin (Treflan).

Dr. Howard also reports that activated charcoal has been found to prevent or reduce injury, (depending upon the concentration) to a large number of horticultural crops that were growing in soil that had been treated with herbicides that would have had a detrimental effect on them. The crops included cabbages, cucumbers, corn, onions, peas, peppers, pump-

- (cont'd) -

Activated Charcoal Reduces Herbicide Damage (cont'd)

kins, radishes, strawberries, squash and tomatoes. It has also been used in bluegrass and fescue lawns, in flowerbeds and around various ornamental plants including trees and shrubs.

Most brands of activated charcoal can be applied as a dry powder or as a root dip or it can be mixed with water and applied as a spray. The rate will vary with the concentration of herbicide to be neutralized, which may have to be determined by a test. Suggested rates are specified on the label of the container, and these products can be purchased at most large horticultural supply centres.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHEMICAL DAMAGE INVESTIGATION SERVICE

Did you know that the weed section of the Alberta Environmental Centre (AEC) in Vegreville provides a chemical damage diagnostic service to homeowners and farmers? Last year it processed approximately 750 plant and soil samples.

Although applicators take precautions to prevent agricultural chemical sprays from drifting on to non-target vegetation areas, and regulations have been enacted to help prevent the misuse of herbicides and other pesticides, accidents do occur. And when the damage is significant, the injured party generally wants to take some action to recover his losses from the party responsible for the damage. Settlement of such claims in the past varied from one district to another, depending upon the philosophy of the local district agriculturist or agriculture fieldman. However, in 1976 a procedure was worked out and implemented to standardize the handling of such cases.

Here is how it works.

The person who has sustained the injury (the client) contacts his district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman (investigator) who goes to the site and records his observations of the suspected herbicide damage on a case history sheet. This sheet is a basic part of the diagnostic procedure. The client and the investigator then take representative samples from affected and unaffected areas, noting any unusual characteristics.

Upon completion of the field investigation, the plant specimens and/or soil samples and the report are sent to the Alberta Environmental Centre's weed section. Here they are analyzed and reports are sent to the client and to the investigator. A complete investigation usually takes about five weeks.

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Chemical Damage Investigation Service (cont'd)

The aim of the chemical damage investigation service is to determine the cause of the damage, not to assess the degree of damage or to lay blame. It is up to the client to take action to obtain compensation, which can vary from a direct settlement between the two parties, a settlement after consultation with an agricultural appraiser, or litigation. If legal action is contemplated, the client should obtain the services of a lawyer and/or agricultural consultant.

For further information contact Dr. F.A. Qureshi or Dr. M.P. Sharma, Alberta Environmental Centre, Bag Service 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, T0B 4L0 (Telephone: 632-6761).

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATISTICS CANADA FARM SURVEYS

Statistics Canada is in the process of conducting its annual Farm Enumerative Survey and will start conducting a Farm Energy Use Survey on June 25.

Farm Enumerative Survey

Each year a selected group of farmers in Western Canada are surveyed to find out the types of crops they are growing, the size of their seeded acreage and other vital factors. The information collected is used to provide a data base for the Grain Stabilization Act as well as to provide provincial departments of agriculture and producers' organizations with the information they require to plan policies and programs.

Farm Energy Use Survey

Statistics Canada interviewers will be visiting selected Western Canadian farmers towards the end of June to obtain information on the type and quantity of energy being used on these farms.

The information collected through the survey will be used to determine a means of targeting energy substitution and conservation programs for the agricultural community; to develop an emergency energy distribution measurement; and to help improve projections for future farm energy demands.

Additional information on these surveys can be obtained in Alberta from Peter Palfenier, 11010 - 101 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 4C5 (Telephone: 421-4493).

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLOR-CODED BY DELAVAN

Delavan Agspray Division has developed a color-coded, molded flat-fan LF tip for broadcast spraying crops.

Since the nozzles are color-coded according to flow rate and angle size, the user can select tips of the same size at a glance. The nozzles are molded from Zytel nylon which, according to Delavan, has outstanding abrasion and wear-resistance qualities. The initial five nozzle sizes that will be available will be grey, orange, yellow, blue and green, all with 80° angles, in sizes LF-2, LF-3, LF-4, LF-5 and LF-6 respectively.

Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says the new LF tips are not ground from metals or plastics, but are actually molded, which improves the uniformity of the spray angle, the output and the pattern. However, he points out that these nozzles do not eliminate the need for accurate calibration. Like all nozzle tips, they should be checked before they are used by determining the spray output from each tip and by visually checking for a good spray pattern.

For more information on the LF nozzles, contact your local sprayer supply dealer or write to Delavan, 811 Fourth Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265, U.S.A.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW HERBICIDE REGISTERED

Dupont has obtained registration for a new herbicide called Glean for use on wheat and barley crops.

According to Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, at a rate of 15 g per hectare it will control redroot pigweed, lamb's quarters, stinkweed, volunteer rape, hempnettle and cleavers. At a rate of 30 g per hectare, Glean will control chickweed, cow cockle, wild buckwheat, Canada thistle, Russian thistle and kochia. The cost at the lower rate would be $9.61 per hectare.

Mr. Esau stresses that no broadleaved crop should be planted in a field in which the previous crop was treated with Glean for 18 months after the application. However, wheat, barley or oats may be planted the following year in the black soil zone, but only wheat and oats in the dark brown and brown soil zones.

Federated Co-op via their network of co-op stores will be one of the distributors of Glean.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KNAPWEED POSES A SERIOUS THREAT

Diffuse and spotted knapweed are posing a real threat to Alberta rangeland, according to Jack Hazelwood, district agriculturist at Three Hills.

He points out that the seriousness of this threat can be demonstrated by the history of knapweed in British Columbia where approximately 800 acres of rangeland were infested in 1952. By 1974 the area has grown to 75,000 acres, and fairly recent estimates put it at more than 100,000 acres with a further 2 million acres now being threatened. The problem in the northwestern United States is even more serious. For example, Montana alone has 2 million acres of infested rangeland, which is calculated to be responsible for a loss of some $20 million annually through a reduced carrying capacity.

Both diffuse and spotted knapweed are recent introductions to Alberta. Known infestations do not exceed 300 acres, and are largely confined to railway lines, highways and adjacent rangeland that extends from Coleman through Lethbridge and Medicine Hat to the Saskatchewan border. However, there are undoubtedly other infestations that have not yet been identified or reported north and south of this area.

Mr. Hazelwood believes that this relatively small acreage of infestation makes it both physically and economically possible to eradicate these species of knapweed before they spread further. There is another species, known as Russian knapweed, which has been present in southern Alberta for several decades. However, unlike diffuse and spotted knapweed, it does not reproduce extensively by seed and has, therefore, remained confined to relatively small areas.

What can be done to prevent the spread of diffuse and spotted knapweed? Mr. Hazelwood says the first step is to learn to identify the plant in both its early and mature stages of growth. He also says that identification aids are available from district agriculturists

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Knapweed Poses A Serious Threat (cont'd)

and agricultural fieldman. When looking for knapweed, keep in mind that you will probably find it in grassland which has been disturbed by construction, vehicles or heavy livestock traffic. If you find any, mark the site, collect a specimen and take it to your district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman for definite identification. The recommended method of control will depend upon the location of the weed, its stage of growth and the size of the infestation.

Anyone who has found knapweed on his land should advise his neighbor so that he can keep a lookout for it on his property. "Eradication is possible", says Mr. Hazelwood, "but only if everyone from the landowner to the local weed control authority recognizes the seriousness of the potential threat to the livestock industry and all actively participate in an all out control program."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDES AND PLANT INJURY

by Ulf Soehngen
Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks

"Operation a success, but the patient died!" How often has a gardener or greenhouse operator found after he has used a pesticide that the pests are dead but the plants are in worse condition than they were before he treated them?

Many chemicals have a negative effect on the plants they are supposed to protect. And this effect is by no means consistent; it varies with changes in environmental conditions and often with the varieties of a given plant species. In fact, it causes considerable difficulties at times for a person who is trying to make appropriate pest control recommendations.

Injury to plants that have been treated with a pesticide can also take a variety of forms. They include foliage burning; a marginal burn or spotting of leaves or flower parts; cupping, curling or yellowing of leaves; and the distortion of leaf and flower buds. Pesticides that are applied as a soil drench can cause growth retardation because of root injury in addition to the injury forms already mentioned.

Here are some general precautions that will help to prevent plant injury. First read the label on the product and follow the directions carefully. The label lists the precautions and restrictions and contains instructions on mixing and applying the product as well as information on the pests that it will control and the plants for which it is specifically recommended. To further reduce the chances of plant injury, the precautions listed below should also be followed.

- Do not apply a spray out-of-doors on a windy or wet day.
- Do not spray flowers or flower buds in an advanced stage of development.

- (cont'd) -

Pesticides And Plant Injury (cont'd)

- Do not space chemical applications too closely together or the plants may be damaged from a residue build up or chemical incompatibility.
- Apply pesticides during the cooler part of the day unless the product label states otherwise.
- Be sure that the plants are dry before you spray.
- Do all indoor spraying in a well ventilated area to reduce pesticide contamination as much as possible.
- Spray only a small branch or even a few leaves if you are in doubt about how a plant will react to a particular pesticide. If no signs of injury are apparent in 48 hours, the pesticide should be alright.

More information on plant injury is contained in a publication entitled "Susceptibility of Some Ornamental Plants to Pesticide Injury" (FS 270/621-1). It is available from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USING METRIC MEASUREMENTS IN YOUR SPRAYING OPERATIONS

Did you have trouble last year converting to metric when applying herbicides to your crops?

Andy Birch, district agriculturist at Stettler, suggests that you follow the five steps listed below when you are purchasing, calibrating and applying herbicides in metric terms.

Step 1

Convert your field from acres into hectares by multiplying the number of acres by 0.4. A 100-acre field would contain 40 hectares.

Step 2

Convert the volume of your spray tank into litres from gallons by multiplying the gallons by 4.55. (There are 4.55 litres in an Imperial gallon). A 250 Imperial gallon tank would hold 1138 litres.

Step 3

Note the volume of water per hectare recommended on the herbicide container label. One hundred litres of water per hectare are recommended for most chemicals, but read the label to make sure.

Step 4

Determine the number of hectares one tankful of solution will cover. With this information, you can calculate the amount of chemical you should use. If, for example, your tank holds 1600 litres, and the label on the chemical container recommends applying 100 litres of water per hectare, a full tank will cover 16 hectares. If the label says to apply the chemical at a rate of one litre per hectare, you will need 16 litres of chemical and it will take 40 litres or two and a half tankfuls to spray a 40-hectare field.

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Using Metric Measurements In Your Spraying Operations (cont'd)

Step 5

Determine from the calibration chart the speed, nozzle and pressure required to deliver 100 litres per hectare; and make sure that the nozzles, pump and pressure gauge are working properly. Spray nozzle calibration cups can be obtained from agricultural fieldmen, district agriculturists and chemical retail outlets.

Mr. Birch says you can follow the same procedure as outlined above when tank mixing herbicides, and that you can get convenient litre containers for measuring the herbicides from many chemical retail outlets.

He stresses that the worst thing you can do when using metric measurements is to attempt to convert these into Imperial measurements. He believes there are too many opportunities for misunderstanding and error when both systems are used at the same time. However, unpalatable it may seem, the simplest and best thing to do is to think and calculate in metric terms ony!

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESTRUCTIVE DISEASE OF CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES

Powdery mildew is the most destructive currant and gooseberry disease in Alberta, according to Dr. Ron Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

He says it is caused by a fungus, and that it usuallly appears in early summer in the form of a powdery white growth on the youngest leaves of susceptible currant and gooseberry bushes. A heavy attack of mildew may prevent branch growth and cause a marked reduction in the yield and quality of fruit.

Because the fungus that causes powdery mildew overwinters on infected leaves (it may also survive in buds), anyone who has had a problem with this condition in previous years should rake up and destroy all old leaves. He or she should also avoid the use of an excessive amount of fertilizer because fertilizers promote succulent, susceptible growth.

Again people who have had problems with powdery mildew in the past should remove weak and crowded branches to open up their currant or gooseberry bushes to the air. And they should spray the bushes with tribasic copper sulphate or sulphur before the blossoms open and continue spraying at two week intervals until the fruit starts to ripen.

Dr. Howard advises anyone who plans to plant currant or gooseberry bushes to choose cultivars that have resistance to powdery mildew and to plant them in a sunny location.

The white currants: White Grape, Large White, White Imperial and Albolcurrants also referred to as Missouri, California and cross currants, all have good resistance to powdery mildew as does the small-fruited American gooseberry variety Pixwell.

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Destructive Disease Of Currants And Gooseberries (cont'd)

The red currant varieties Large Knight, Red Lake, Red Cross and Perfection and the black currant variety Willoughby have intermediate resistance to powdery mildew. All the European black currant and gooseberry varieties and many North American black currant varieties are susceptible to powdery mildew.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRAY DRIFT INSURANCE

If you plan to hire a custom applicator to spray your crops, make sure that he has a valid license and find out whether his insurance covers chemical drift. If it does not cover chemical drift, examine your own public liability and property damage insurance to see whether you would be covered if a problem with spray drift should arise.

This advice comes from Norm Soder, agricultural fieldman for the M.D. of Kneehill, who says that most farmers know that they are responsible for any spray drift damage they may cause to a neighbor's crop while spraying their own crops, but that many do not realize that they are also responsible for such damage when it is caused by a custom applicator (either ground or aerial). Mr. Soder points out that a farmer is not only responsible for spray drift damage caused by a person whom he has employed but that he is also liable.

All custom applicators are required by law to hold a valid pesticide applicator's license and to carry public liability and property damage insurance, but according to Mr. Soder, some insurance companies do not include spray drift in their coverage unless it has been specifically requested.

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION

The pesticide container collection program, under which used agricultural chemical containers are collected and safely disposed of, is in operation again this year, and 20 permanent collection sites have been designated throughout Alberta.

Completely voluntary, the program has been highly successful since it was initiated on an experimental basis in 1980. During that year 115,000 containers were collected and disposed of under the program. Last year the number rose to 360,000.

All used containers that are brought to a collection site should have been rinsed out at least three times to reduce the chances of accidental contamination. This procedure will also ensure that no high-priced pesticide is wasted and that the chemical spray solution is of the right concentration.

The containers are sorted at each collection site and those that are made of metal and not considered to have contained a highly toxic material, such as most herbicide containers, are periodically removed and disposed of under contract. Plastic containers and containers that contained highly toxic chemicals are disposed of by Alberta Environment.

You can find out where your nearest collection site is by contacting Ty Faechner, Pesticide Branch, Alberta Environment, 9820-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J6 (Telephone: 427-5855).

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June 21, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS-IN-TRAINING APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointments of Holly Pidzarko, Jo-Ann Holl, Christine Wahl and Leslie Graham to the position of district home economist-in-training.

Holly Pidzarko

Ms. Pidzarko will take her training in Warner where she will work with rural families as a facilitator of resources and information in such areas as foods and nutrition, conservation, consumer information and financial management.

She was born in Athabasca and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in family studies. She has worked for the Department of Social Services under the STEP program as employment counsellor aid in Morinville, St. Albert, Westlock and Barrhead. And last summer she assisted the district home economist in Camrose.

Jo-Ann Holl

Ms. Holl will take her training in Red Deer. She was born in Lloydminster and raised in Vermilion. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in family studies. She has worked in the Alice Keith Nursing Home in Vermilion and in the extended care wing of the Vermilion Hospital.

Christine Wahl

Ms. Wahl will take her training in Barrhead. She was born in Edmonton and grew up in Red Deer. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in foods and nutrition. Her previous work experience includes working for the last two summers as a radar technician with the Alberta Hail Project.

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District Home Economists-In-Training Appointed (cont'd)

Leslie Graham

Ms. Graham will take her training at High River. She was born and raised in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, and moved to Edmonton in 1979 to attend the University of Alberta. She graduated this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in clothing and textiles.

Ms. Graham spent last summer working as a 4-H summer assistant with the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture. Her duties involved helping to organize major 4-H events in the Kamloops-Okanagan area.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING INTEREST

by Merle Good
Financial Management Section, Alberta Agriculture, Olds

Our two arch enemies, income taxes and interest rates, have a very interesting relationship. Analysis of one without concern for the other has resulted in many farm managers basing business decisions on information that is totally incorrect. The actual effective interest rate on borrowed capital or deposits is never the interest quoted except in situations where no tax liability exists.

When borrowing funds, the effective interest rate depends on the individual's marginal tax bracket and whether or not the interest is a deductible expense. On the other hand, a depositor's effective interest rate depends on only one factor -- his marginal tax bracket.

Since farmers are historically borrowers rather than depositors, the concept behind interest deductibility is very important to understand. And the first basic rule is that tax deductible expenses cost less than the amount paid. The difference is being paid by your best friend and business partner Revenue Canada! This is true for every item you can deduct on your tax return as itemized expenses, including interest. For example, a farmer in a 30 per cent tax bracket will pay 30 per cent less in tax on every dollar of expense incurred. Therefore, his net after tax interest cost is only 70¢; not the one dollar actually paid.

Since interest rates have doubled and input costs have almost doubled in the past two years, operating interest costs have quadrupled. For example:

Principal Sum	X	Interest Rate	=	Interest Cost
$20,000	x	9%	=	$1,800
$40,000	x	18%	=	$7,200

- (cont'd) -

Managing Interest (cont'd)

With such escalating interest costs, many farmers are seriously considering cutting back on the use of crop inputs. However, before making that decision, a farmer should calculate his return per dollar invested. In other words his profit. The difficulty in determining profit is that a dollar made is not a dollar saved. Revenue Canada expects its share. When analyzing an investment decision, it therefore becomes paramount to arrive at your after-tax profit figure. Remember, decisions made with the sole purpose of minimizing income taxes do not always result in the most after tax income. A dollar of income forgone to save tax (assuming a 30 per cent tax bracket) will cost the government 30 ¢ of revenue, and you will lose 70 ¢ of potential income.

The question now arises: "Is it economical to spray, fertilize, etc. at a cost of $40,000 and an interest rate of 18 per cent?" The answer is based on the expected return and the after-tax cost of these inputs and their associated carrying charges. Assuming a 20 per cent marginal tax bracket, and that a dollar invested will yield a dollar of income, the carrying charge of $7,200 on the $40,000 operating loan will result in a reduced tax liability of $1,440 ($7,200 x 20%). The effective after-tax interest rate is therefore 14.4 per cent which is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Interest Outlay - Tax Reduction}}{\text{Principal Borrowed;}} \times 100 = \frac{\$7,200 - \$1,440}{\$40,000} \times 100 = 14.4\%$$

The conclusion, based on these figures, would be to not borrow the $40,000 because the rate of return on the invested funds did not exceed 14.4 per cent which was the required rate to break even.

You may use the following table to find the effective after-tax interest rate by starting at the before interest tax rate, and finding your marginal tax bracket. Using

- (cont'd) -

Managing Interest (cont'd)

the same 18 per cent interest rate and 20 per cent marginal tax bracket, the table below shows an effective after tax rate of 14.4%.

	Marginal Tax Bracket (%)				
Int. Rate (%)	20	25	30	40	50
15	12.00	11.25	10.50	9.00	7.50
16	12.80	12.00	11.20	9.60	8.00
17	13.60	12.75	11.90	10.20	8.50
18	14.40	13.50	12.60	10.80	9.00
19	15.20	14.25	13.30	11.40	9.50
20	16.00	15.00	14.00	12.00	10.00
21	16.80	15.75	14.70	12.60	10.50
22	17.60	16.50	15.40	13.20	11.00

On the other side of the coin, any interest paid which is not deductible against taxable income results in an effective after-tax rate that rises rather than declines.

For example, if a farmer who is in a 30 per cent tax bracket borrows $10,000 at an interest rate of 18 per cent to buy a boat (assuming this to be a non-farm asset), the interest payment will be $1,800. But, remember, for every dollar earned, 30 ¢ is paid to the federal and provincial governments in income taxes. Since the interest expense is not deductible, the farmer has to earn $2,571 in order to pay the $1,800 interest bill.

Required Income	Taxes Due	Disposible Income
$2,571	$2,571 x 30% = $ 771	$2,571 - $771 = $1,800

The effective after-tax interest rate therefore rises to 25.7 per cent.

$$\frac{\text{Required Income X 100}}{\text{Principal Borrowed}} = \frac{\$2,571 \text{ X } 100}{\$10,000} = 25.71\%$$

Using the following table in the same manner as above, we find that the 18 per cent interest rate and the 30 per cent tax bracket yields an effective after-tax interest rate of 25.71% per cent.

	Marginal Tax Bracket (%)				
Int. Rate (%)	20	25	30	40	50
15	18.75	20.00	21.43	25.00	30.00
16	20.00	21.33	22.86	26.67	32.00
17	21.25	22.67	24.29	28.33	34.00
18	22.50	24.00	25.71	30.00	36.00
19	23.75	25.33	27.14	31.67	38.00
20	25.00	26.67	28.57	33.33	40.00
21	26.25	28.00	30.00	35.00	42.00
22	27.50	29.33	31.43	36.67	44.00

- (cont'd) -

Managing Interest (cont'd)

Conclusion

It is vital to recognize the true after-tax interest rate on all outstanding loans. To be deductible, interest must be paid on money borrowed to be used in a business, to purchase an income producing property or it must be paid on money to repay a loan made for one of these purposes.

If there are loans outstanding with interest which is not deductible, it becomes paramount in today's economic squeeze to reduce the debt as soon as possible. If cash flow prohibits a quick paydown, consider selling income-producing assets to retire the debt and then re-borrow funds to re-purchase these assets.

If this simple sequence is followed, the interest on the borrowed funds should become deductible.

In order to comply with the rules in the Income Tax Act, be sure to seek competent counsel from an accountant before implementing any tax strategy.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRACE MINERALS IN ALBERTA FEEDS

A large number of both grain and roughage samples that were analyzed in a survey carried out by Alberta Agriculture in 1980-81 were found to contain less than the recommended levels of manganese, copper, zinc and selenium.

According to Ron Weisenburger, the head of Alberta Agriculture's nutrition section of the beef cattle and sheep branch, there was no clear geographical distribution of the mineral deficiencies except in the case of selenium. Here the highest number of samples that had less than the standard 100 ppb of selenium came from the black, dark grey and grey wooded soil zones west of Highway No.2 and north of Highway No.16.

Mr. Weisenburger also reports that a study of forages in the Barrhead area showed that the concentration of many minerals decreased as the forages matured. He says the location where the forage is grown and the type of minerals involved can have a significant effect upon the forage's concentration of a specific mineral.

Mr. Weisenburger also says that a reduction in livestock feed intake followed by reduced gains, milk production and reproductive performance are usually the first symptoms of a mineral deficiency. Although cases of apparent trace mineral deficiencies are not uncommon, he warns farmers not to look upon the supplementation of trace minerals as a "cure all"! He advises them to check the levels of energy, protein, calcium, phosphorous and vitamin A in the rations they are feeding, and if these are adequate, to check out the possible presence of a disease-related production problem with their veterinarian.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE SPREADING

Reports that the mountain pine beetle is spreading in southern Alberta have sparked concern about this formerly little known insect.

According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, there have been numerous outbreaks of mountain pine beetles in Waterton National Park and the beetle now appears to be moving north and east. In fact, damage has been reported in relatively isolated pine stands as far east as the Saskatchewan border as well as in both Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Damage has also been reported in the Cypress Hills.

Dr. Soehngen says that the mountain pine beetle *(Dendroctonus ponderosae)* is the most serious insect pest that attacks pine trees in Canada. Although the lodgepole, western white and ponderosa pines are the favorite hosts of this tiny (1/4") beetle, it will also attack Scots, white bark and limber pines. Even though spruce and Douglas fir are not suitable hosts, and brood rarely develops in them, they are not immune from this beetle.

Trees that have been colonized by the beetles usually show symptoms the following spring. These include the appearance of a fine red-brown dust where the beetles have bored into the tree. Although the dust accumulates in bark crevices at the base of the tree, it is evident for only a few days after an attack because it is easily dissipated by wind and rain. In some cases cream-colored or red-brown resin forms at the attack sites.

Occasionally, the crown portion of an affected tree will fade during a very hot summer. In such cases the foliage gradually changes from green to yellow and from yellow to yellow-brown to red-brown. The needles finally drop off, but the odd tree will retain some needles for as long as three years.

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Mountain Pine Beetle Spreading (cont'd)

There are four species of fungi that are carried by adult mountain pine beetles to newly colonized trees. One of these, the blue fungus, stains the wood blue as it breaks down the tree's tissues.

Dr. Soehngen says not all trees can be colonized by mountain pine beetles and their assorted fungi. When a tree is attacked, it responds with an initial flow of resin and other compounds which can inhibit the development of the beetles and the fungi. Sometimes a resin pocket forms on the surface of the attack site and living tissue grows over the wound. Such trees are considered to have resistance to mountain pine beetles.

All degrees of resistance are found in pine trees, depending upon such things as environmental conditions, beetle parasites and stress factors as well as the type of pine, its seasonal cycle, its age and its size. As a general rule, however, trees with a diameter of less than 20 cm are less vulnerable to attack than larger, older trees.

If you suspect mountain pine beetle damage in your trees, contact your local district agriculturist who will put you in touch with the appropriate specialist.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUNGICIDE CONTROL OF SCLEROTINIA

The fungicide benomyl appears to give excellent sclerotinia control in Altex canola.

Dr. Ieuan Evans, a plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the fungicide benomyl was used in field-scale trials last summer at 15 sites in west-central Alberta where sclerotinia white mold of canola is an annual problem. He says yield increases ranged from 168 to more than 1400 kg/ha when the chemical was applied by aircraft at a rate of 1.12 kg of product per hectare to Altex canola crops that were in the one-third bloom stage. In similar trials involving Candle, the level of disease was reduced but there was no apparent yield increase.

The trials were coordinated by Phil Thomas, Alberta Agriculture's oilseed supervisor at Lacombe, in co-operation with farmers, agricultural fieldmen, district agriculturists, chemical company representatives, flying service agency personnel and plant pathologists.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOOK OUT FOR DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Although Dutch Elm Disease (DED) has not yet made its appearance in Alberta, constant vigilance against this destructive disease is being urged.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathology specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, asks anybody who thinks that he or she may have seen an elm tree with DED symptoms to contact his or her nearest Alberta Agriculture regional crop laboratory, and, if possible, to submit a sample of the branch or branches that appear to be diseased for an analysis. He stresses that the early detection and the prompt removal of DED-infected trees are basic to the control of this disease.

A typical symptom of DED between mid-June and mid-July is the wilting and curling of leaves on one or more branches. The main symptom later in the summer is usually a drooping and pronounced yellowing of affected leaves. Sometimes elms become infected in the late fall and do not display any symptoms until the following spring. According to Dr. Howard, such trees usually leaf out normally but their leaves are smaller than normal on one or more branches and sometimes over the entire tree.

Dr. Howard says the American elm, large numbers of which have been planted in Alberta cities and towns, is extremely susceptible to DED. On the other hand, Asiatic elms like the Chinese and the Siberian elm are very resistant.

Both the native and the European elm bark beetle are mainly responsible for the spread of DED. Dr. Howard says that surveys carried out during the past three years have failed to find either species in Alberta, but he points out that they can easily be brought into the province in elm wood. And there is a real danger that the beetles could spread the fungus from DED-infected wood to nearby elms.

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Look Out For Dutch Elm Disease (cont'd)

Plant protection specialists in Alberta have been concerned for some time now about the possibility of campers bringing fire wood into Alberta from DED-infested areas in Manitoba and Montana. Hence, all camping grounds and border crossings have been posted with "KEEP DED OUT" notices to remind travellers of the risk of transporting DED in elm fire wood.

DED was declared a plant pest under The Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta in 1978, which makes it illegal to bring infected elm wood into Alberta. The act also spells out the steps that tree owners would have to take to eradicate DED if it should be found here.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOURCES OF FARM BUSINESS CREDIT IN ALBERTA

High interest rates have prompted farmers to shop around for credit in the same way that they would shop around for any other major purchase, and lending institutions have had to develop specific loan programs to meet the credit needs of farmers.

Alberta Agriculture has recently issued a publication entitled "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" which outlines the credit options available to farmers in this province. It includes farm loan programs that are available through the chartered banks, treasury branches, credit unions, the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Farm Credit Corporation.

The publication also contains a complete description of each lending agency's loans. This description tells what the loan can be used for, the amount of money that is available, the terms and who can qualify.

Copies of "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" (Agdex 832) can be obtained from your district office, from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta, 2OM 1PO or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH QUALITY FORAGE FOR EFFICIENT MILK PRODUCTION

With a continually increasing proportion of milk cheques being eaten up by escalating feed costs, it is more important than ever that dairymen put up a high quality forage this season.

A low quality forage means that dairymen must feed more grain and buy more protein supplement. And even with these more expensive feed components, dairy cows still will not reach their peak production.

Dennis Lowry, dairy production specialist with Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, believes that future dairy farm profits may well depend as much on the ability of dairymen to harvest a high quality forage as on any other single factor. He points out that it is the only way a dairyman can cut back on his feed costs without lowering his production.

He also points out that there is no substitute for high quality forage, particularly alfalfa, and that an optimum feeding value depends upon timely cutting and a preservation system that will provide a palatable feed with a maximum nutrient content.

The stage of maturity at which legumes are cut is probably the main factor that affects quality. According to Mr. Lowry, the best time to cut legumes from the point of view of both quality and yield is when they are between the bud and the 10 per cent bloom stage. The best time to cut grasses is when they are between the heading and the blooming stages.

It is true that the yield of legumes would increase somewhat if they were harvested in full bloom, but so would their fibre content. And their protein content digestibility, palatability and consumption rate would all drop off, indicating a considerable deterioration in quality.

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High Quality Forage For Efficient Milk Production (cont'd)

A high proportion of early alfalfa growth consists of leaves, but as the plants mature the ratio of leaves to stem drops rapidly. And since the leaves have a higher percentage of very digestible cell content, and a low percentage of less digestible cell wall material than the stems, it is very important, says Mr. Lowry, that as much leaf material be retained as possible.

He goes on to explain that in young plants even the stems have thin cell walls which are usually very digestible. However, as most forage plants mature, these cell walls thicken and become lignified, and the lignin coating reduces both the digestibility and the palatability of the forage. Mr. Lowry also says that a large proportion of the cell wall constituents (cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin) that is found in mature, low quality forage is an insurmountable obstacle to the digestive system of a lactating cow.

Hence, it is extremely important that dairymen cut their forage early, minimize weathering and get the forage into a covered storage area as soon as possible if they want to reduce dry matter loss and to retain a high quality feed.

Mr. Lowry recommends using a high percentage of alfalfa to ensure a high quality hay or haylage. He says even the best quality grass (brome grass or timothy) feed is never as good as the best quality legume (alfalfa or clover) feed because a legume forage contains a lower percentage of cell wall constitutents than a grass forage.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING FIREBLIGHT

The only effective way of controlling fireblight that has become established in a tree or shrub is to remove the infected twigs or branches or to remove the whole tree if it has large cankers on its trunk.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says branches that have a diameter of 2.5 cm or less can be removed during the growing season, but that those that have a diameter of more than 2.5 cm should only be removed during the dormant season (late fall to early spring).

When removing infected branches, Dr. Howard recommends cutting them off 25 to 45 cm below the infected area because the bacteria which cause the infection may extend beyond the portion that shows blight.

The sudden wilting and browning of blossoms and the subsequent browning of the leaves and twigs is a typical characteristic of fireblight. Dr. Howard says that immature fruit that is infected may appear to be watery or oily and then turn brown or black, and that droplets of bacterial "ooze" frequently appear on infected fruit, twigs and branches.

He recommends treating pruning wounds, especially if they are larger than 2.5 cm in diameter, with a reliable wound dressing. And he stresses that all infected material that is removed from a diseased tree or shrub should be burned immediately as should whole trees that are removed.

Pruning tools should always be dipped in a disinfectant solution after each cut to avoid infecting healthy tree tissue. Alcohol, a Lysol solution containing 50 mL of Lysol per

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Controlling Fireblight (cont'd)

litre of water or a household bleach solution containing 100 mL of bleach per litre of water are all recommended for disinfecting pruning tools.

Dr. Howard also recommends inspecting trees and shrubs that are susceptible to fireblight regularly during the summer to prevent the start of new infections. He points out that there are more than 140 species of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs that are susceptible to fireblight and that they include flowering crabapples, apple and pear trees, mountain ash, hawthorne, spirea, cotoneaster and raspberry and saskatoon bushes.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK '82

"I Make the Difference . . . . to myself, my family, my community" is the theme of Alberta Women's Week '82 that will take place at Olds College from July 19 - 22.

Guest speakers will include futuristic writer Marilyn Ferguson who offers hope for the future by her belief that the potential for a better world lies within each one of us.

Guest speaker Father Lucien Larre, noted for his work with troubled teenagers, and the founder of the BOSCO home in Regina, Saskatchewan will talk about "The Family" He maintains that a family and community effort is required to make society a better place to grow.

And an associate of the California Fashion Academy, Suzanne Truba, will introduce the concept of total color co-ordination and wardrobe planning as well as suggest ways that women can make the most of their fashion dollar. She believes that no one has a second chance to make a good first impression.

There will be select-a-session courses on Inflation Fighting, Dressing to Make the Difference, The Two Family Farm, Aerobic Fitness, Insurance, Enriching Your Child's Play, Managing Money in the '80's, The Food Mystique and Plant Care.

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Alberta Women's Week '82 (cont'd)

There will also be evening exhibits, displays and free draws and a dessert party with A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh story for the children. A program designed for children between the ages of three and nine (enrollment limited to 70) will be run in conjunction with the women's program.

Registration is limited to 350 participants and the cost is $10 per adult or child with a limit of $30 per family. Meals and accommodation will be available at a reasonable rate at the college.

Contact your district home economist for more information on Alberta's Women's Week '82 or for a registration brochure. June 28 is the deadline for registering.

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June 28, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS OF VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's regionalization of the animal pests section of the crop protection and pest control branch has resulted in the appointments of three regional supervisors of vertebrate pest control.

The southern and south-central regions of the province will now be be served from Lethbridge by Phil Merrill. Mr. Merrill was raised on a farm near Mountain View and was a predator specialist for about nine years in the Cardston area before his present appointment

The north-central and the northeastern regions will be served from Vermilion by John Bourne. Mr. Bourne grew up in Edmonton and was employed by Alberta Agriculture for about eight years as a field supervisor of predator and animal pest control. In 1979 he and his wife took a world tour after which he worked for the government of the Northwest Territories. He rejoined Alberta Agriculture this spring to assume his present appointment.

The northwest and the Peace River regions will be served from Edmonton by Robert Acorn. Mr. Acorn was raised on a farm near Peers and has been employed by Alberta Agriculture since 1979 as a field supervisor of predator and animal pest control. Prior to that he was employed in pest control work by the City of Edmonton.

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Regional Supervisors Of Vertebrate Pest Control Appointed (cont'd)

According to the head of Alberta Agriculture's Crop Protection and Pest Control Branch, Joe Gurba, the duties and responsibilities of the three regional supervisors will involve the regional administration and coordination of the provincial Rat Control Program, the Rabies Vector Control Program, the Field Rodent Control Program and the Coyote Damage Control Program through surveys, field research, demonstrations, extension activities, etc. They will also supervise the operations of the predator specialists at Cardston, Brooks, Rocky Mountain House, Athabasca, Fort Assiniboine and Grande Prairie.

Mr. Gurba says that as a result of working with local governments and local farmers, it is expected that the regional supervisors will become more familiar with local problems than has been the case in the past.

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Alberta
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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEN YOUNG FARMERS LEAVE FOR JAPAN

Ten young Alberta farmers leave for Japan under the Hokkaido-Alberta Agricultural Exchange Program. They are from left to right Joan Bakker of Calgary (dairy farm); Stuart McNary of Bittern Lake (dairy farm); Diana Bigus of New Sarepta (dairy farm); Chris Carleton of Bon Accord (potato farm); Linda Roth of Ellerslie (horse farm); Craig Grad of Millet (beef farm); Bo Laursen of Gibbons (hog farm); Shauna Bland of Bon Accord (dairy farm); Rod Stewart of Gunn (beef farm); and John Doyle of Bittern Lake (dairy farm).

Ten young Alberta farmers left the Edmonton International Airport recently to spend a year in Japan under the Hokkaido-Alberta Agricultural Exchange Program.

While in Japan they will be living with host families on farms in Hokkaido where they will learn Japanese farming methods and about the cultural life of that country.

This year most of the exchangees come from five different types of farms – dairy, horse, potato, beef and hog – in the Edmonton area. Since Alberta Agriculture pays their air fares, cost is not a factor in this program. And according to the coordinator of the program, Spence Goddard, the benefits to young people from such a working and learning experience are fantastic.

He says there will be opportunity for another 10 to 15 adventurous young Albertans to go to Japan next year, and that application forms can be obtained any time from all district agriculturists.

July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBERTA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES

The future of Alberta's cattle and hog industries depends on the expansion of their markets. The import demand for livestock and meat in the U.S.A., the Pacific Rim and other countries with a high and growing per capita income will affect Alberta's agriculture more than the world demand for grain or oilseeds in the 1980s.

Canada, and particularly Alberta, should concentrate on penetrating the fastest growing U.S. market — the Pacific northwest. Alberta should emphasize the states of Washington, Oregon and Northern California for both beef and pork as well as the Pacific Rim countries. After the lowering of the U.S. tariff on livestock in 1987, as a result of the last round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), the United States tariff on livestock will be insignificant. When export floor prices and import ceiling prices are closer, the synchronization of agricultural trade between Canada and the U.S. is a likely occurrence for cattle and beef.

The U.S. and Canada already have a well integrated common market in pork, but Alberta has not yet established an industrial structure conducive to expanding into this market.

In conclusion, we reiterate the all-important relationship between Canada and the U.S. and assess the import demand for Alberta livestock and meat in the next decade as favorable, providing that the institutional arrangements (tariffs, quota restrictions) presently in force are removed and an expansionary production and trade policy is adopted. A reorientation of Alberta's cattle, beef and pork trade toward the Pacific northwest of the U.S. and the Pacific Rim is the strongest element of a changed import demand scenario in the '80's.

For further information contact Norm Thompson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIG-BALE SILAGE

The nutritive value of silage is generally higher than that of hay because it is usually made from less mature forage and because it is less exposed to the weather during curing.

This is the opinion of Dr. Nigel Fairey, a forage utilization scientist at the federal government's research station at Beaverlodge. He admits that at present silage making is more expensive and more labor intensive than the popular big-bale haying systems, but he foresees this situation changing in the not too distant future. He reports that balers are now available that can handle forage at moisture contents that are suitable for making silage, and that many European farmers are already making big-bale silage.

There are apparently two methods of preserving big-bale silage. One is to stack the bales, not more than three high, and cover them with two sheets of polyethylene that are well sealed around the stack. The reason for not stacking the bales more than three high is that excess spoilage will occur during stacking and feeding if the bales are exposed to the air for an extended period.

The second method, which may be particularly useful for small feeding operations and for the preservation of very high quality feed, entails putting each bale into a polyethylene bag. If care is exercised, the bags can be used more than once.

Although the direct cutting of silage could make the preservation of large quantities of high-quality forage independent of the weather, this is not possible at the present time because silage crops must be wilted in the field to a dry matter content of between 25 to 35 per cent before they are ensiled. However, Dr. Fairey says direct-cut silage can be blended with a nutritious dry feed-like cereal grain to lower its moisture content and to improve its silage-making properties.

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Big-Bale Silage (cont'd)

He points out that both the above methods of preserving silage can also be used to boost the quality of crop by-products like cereal and forage seed straw if the straw is treated with anhydrous ammonia or sodium hydroxide. "These treatments", he says, "can increase the digestibility of straw by 10 to 20 per cent and they can double its protein content." This means that straw can be made to have the same nutritional value as medium to good quality hay.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA DAYS

Canola Days will be held at the federal research station in Beaverlodge on July 15; the University of Alberta in Edmonton on July 20; and the federal research station in Lacombe on July 30.

Information on the agenda, etc. can be obtained from any director of the Alberta Canola Association.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION OF HIGH MOISTURE HAY

Wouldn't it be nice if you could bale hay with a moisture content of 30-40 per cent without having to worry about heating or spoilage? This practice could become a reality in this decade, according to Alberta Agriculture's forage and special crops specialist, Ken Lopetinsky.

Apparently there are already three different research projects in progress that show that it is possible to bale hay with a higher moisture content than is presently the case and, thereby, to achieve a better quality hay.

In studies carried out at the federal research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan, hay with a 35 per cent moisture content that was treated with 2 per cent ammonia on a weight basis did not spoil. The ammonia was injected into the bales which were then covered with black plastic to provide an airtight seal and left for 21 days. At this time the cover was removed.

Feeding trials and a chemical analysis showed that the hay could remain in good condition for at least 130 days after the plastic had been removed or for almost five months after it had been baled. The hay had no mold, did not heat in the bale and there was a large increase in its protein content.

Mr. Lopetinsky says another possibility of an inexpensive high moisture hay preservative has come from work being carried out at the University of Alberta. The researchers there say that sulphur dioxide appears to be a very good mold inhibitor. Since there is a large supply of sulphur dioxide in Alberta, this work is also very encouraging, Mr. Lopetinsky says.

Still another possibility for putting up better quality hay could be through chemical drying. Mr. Lopetinsky reports that a relatively new concept has been developed in Australia which involves the use of potassium carbonate to facilitate the more rapid drying of alfalfa.

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Preservation Of High Moisture Hay (cont'd)

When the alfalfa stems just in front of a haybine were sprayed with five to 10 pounds of potassium carbonate in 20 to 40 gallons of water per acre, it is reported that the hay dried one to three days faster than normal. In fact, some of the hay that was cut in the morning was claimed to have been baled late the same day. Mr. Lopetinsky believes that there is a chance that other chemicals may do an even better job of penetrating the waxy cuticle of alfalfa stems, which prevent rapid drying. In addition to quicker drying, this would result in a lower rate of leaf loss because the stems would then take about the same length of time to dry as the leaves.

"Although further work in both hay preservatives and chemical drying is necessary before we can adopt these technologies", says Mr. Lopetinsky, "I do believe that you will see farmers in the '80's making use of the information". The practical application of the work still has to be worked out, but farmers, in the not too distant future, may be able to bale their hay with a 35 per cent moisture content or get their alfalfa dry in half the time that it now takes.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATCH OUT FOR CORN BORERS

If you suspect that you have European corn borers in your corn crop, you are asked to notify your district agriculturist or Dr. Alex Harper at the federal research station in Lethbridge.

The corn borer is the larva of a small moth. It is about 3 cm long and flesh colored with brown spots. The adult larvae, which overwinter in the corn stalks on which they have been feeding, appear as moths the following May or June and lay their eggs on the developing leaves of the corn plants.

According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, European corn borers were found in 12 corn fields and in eight market gardens near Medicine Hat last fall. That was the first time they had been seen in Alberta since 1957 when they were found near Brooks. In 1956 they were seen in a garden in Medicine Hat. Until last fall it was believed that the eradication program carried out in the mid-1950's had eliminated the threat of these insects in Alberta's corn-growing areas.

The recommended control methods for the European corn borer are as follows: chop all corn stalks in a field that is infested as soon as the corn has been harvested, disc the field in both directions and then plow it. If chopping the stalks is not possible, the field should be disced and plowed anyway.

Scientists at the research station in Lethbridge report that studies have shown that European corn borer infestations can be reduced by as much as 85 to 95 per cent the following year if infested corn stalks are chopped after having been harvested and then disced and plowed into the ground.

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Watch Out For Corn Borers (cont'd)

A publication entitled "European Corn Borer" (Agdex 622-9) contains colored pictures of the developmental stages of this insect, its life history and its control as well as a description of the damage it causes. The publication can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUBER FLEA BEETLES FOUND IN ALBERTA

Alberta has a new potato pest. It is the tuber flea beetle.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that the tuber flea beetle has long been suspected of attacking home garden potatoes in the Edmonton area, but that its presence was only confirmed last year.

The adult beetle, which is about 3 mm long, black and an energetic jumper, feeds on potato leaves where it leaves numerous small, round holes. However, the larvae attack the tuber just beneath the skin where they leave thread-like tunnels that fill with a "corky" tissue. When tunnelling is excessive near the surface of the tuber, the damage may resemble common scab, Dr. Soehngen says.

So far the tuber flea beetle has not been found in commerical plantings, but Dr. Soehngen says a survey of both non-commercial and commercial potato plantings is planned for the Edmonton area this year to ascertain its distribution.

Since tuber potato beetles have not had to be dealt with in Alberta until now, there are no provincial recommendations for its control. But the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture recommends treating potato plants that are growing on land where potatoes were damaged the previous year with either Sevin 50 per cent wettable powder at the rate of 3 tablespoons per gallon of water or Methoxychlor 25 per cent emulsifiable concentrate (liquid) at the rate of 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Treatment should be commenced when the beetles or damage on the potato leaves is first noticed, and it should be repeated when new holes appear in the new leaves or when the beetles reappear.

Mixes of potato and tomato dusts that are available commercially may also be used, according to the B.C. recommendations, but care must be taken to thoroughly cover all the leaves.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEVICE FOR CONTROLLING WEEDS

A simple weed-wiping device, developed by the United States Department of Agriculture research workers, can be used to spot-treat scattered weed stands.

According to information received by Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, the device is gravity-fed and consists of a hockey stick fitted with a self-feeding herbicide reservoir that is carried in a backpack. The blade of the hockey stick is enclosed in sponge and covered with a protective cloth, and a trigger from a handsprayer controls the flow of the herbicide.

The weed-wiping device has been used in the United States to control perennial weeds in orchards and to control weeds under blueberry bushes, etc. Apparently it can also be used to control weeds under ornamental plants if a shield is put over the top of the blade.

Mr. Stearman says he can see the weed-wiping device being used on patches of weeds and brush in pastures and on thistles growing along fence lines. In fact, he believes it could be used in almost any situation where a backpack sprayer could be used.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GARDEN LANDSCAPING

The first step in landscaping a rural garden, or any garden for that matter, is to draw a plan to scale of the area.

When drawing this plan be sure to make a note of power lines, sewer and gas lines, a septic tank field and any extensions to your house that you may have planned for the future. You should also note the direction of the prevailing winds and the land drainage pattern. Then mark on your plan such areas as sidewalks, patios, flower beds, etc. and note the location of present and future out buildings like a garage or a storage shed.

When it comes to choosing which plants will be best for your garden, Brendan Casement, ornamental research horticulturist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says you should be guided by the type of soil in the area, availability of water, the location of sunny and shady areas and the direction of the prevailing winds. He recommends choosing plants that will not become excessively large and that will not produce undesirable seeds or fruit. And plan your landscaping for winter as well as for summer by choosing plants that will add a touch of color during the cold weather. To do this you might choose dogwood shrubs, evergreens, etc.

To find suitable plants for your garden, Mr. Casement suggests you start by checking with your local nursery because local nurseries are usually familiar with local growing conditions. If you do not find what you want there, contact one of the numerous nurseries in Alberta and the other Prairie provinces that have a home catalogue service. You can obtain a list of Alberta nurseries from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center.

If you have an acreage, you may qualify for trees under the Alberta shelterbelt program, which also distributes trees for farm shelterbelts. You can get details of this program from your district agriculturist.

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Garden Landscaping (cont'd)

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center has a number of publications which contain descriptions of various trees, shrubs and flowers that can be grown in Alberta. Two other publications you might be interested in are "Landscaping the Home" (Agdex No. 271/17-2) and the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" (Agdex No.200/01). They can be obtained from your district agriculturist of from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BRANCH OF CSGA TO HOLD WORKSHOP

The Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will hold a seed growers' workshop at Agriculture Canada's research station in Beaverlodge on July 26.

The program will be mainly geared to probation seed growers and people who are considering becoming seed growers. And the research station will be hosting a barley tour in conjunction with the workshop on July 27.

The agenda will cover the production and handling of pedigreed crops, the inspection of pedigreed seed, the roguing of off-types and the program and demonstration plots at the federal research station.

Registration will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the research station in Beaverlodge, and the workshop is free!

Further information can be obtained from Bill Witbeck at 782-4641 or Dr. Bob Wolfe at 354-2212.

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July 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

A recent publication put out by Alberta Agriculture and entitled "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" provides a comprehensive list of nearly 40 assistance programs that are available to Alberta farmers. And it outlines programs related to nearly every aspect of farming from crops and livestock to energy and water development.

A description of the recently announced Range and Soil Improvement Program is included as are various provincial and federal energy assistance programs. Among these are the Propane Vehicle Grant Program and the Assistance for the Rental or Purchase of Fuel Oil or Propane Tanks Program.

Copies of "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex No.871) can be obtained, free of charge, from your district office or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta, 20M 1P0. Copies can also be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

	1982
Breton Plots Field Day and Soils - Crops Clinic Breton Plots Breton, Alberta	July 2
Canadian Home Economics Association Conference Hotel Macdonald Edmonton, Alberta	July 4 - 9
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour County of Foothills, Alberta	July 7 - 9
Canadian Seed Growers' Annual Convention Regina Inn Regina, Saskatchewan	July 8 - 10
Agriculture Institute of Canada — Annual Meeting University of B.C. Vancouver, B.C	July 11 - 16
Canadian Society of Extension — Annual Meeting University of B.C. Vancouver, B.C	July 12 - 15
Alberta Women's Week Olds College Olds, Alberta	July 19 - 22
18th Annual Horticultural Week Olds College Olds, Alberta	July 25 - 30
Alberta-British Columbia Galloway Association — Annual Meeting and Field Day Imperial Inn Medicine Hat, Alberta	July 30 - August 1
World Arabian Horse Organization — Annual Convention Calgary, Alberta	August 16 - 20
Annual Field Day Alberta Horticultural Research Center Brooks, Alberta	August 27
Alberta Feed Industry Conference Marlboro Inn Calgary, Alberta	September 22

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Roundup '82 Country College
(Agricultural presentations, demonstrations and exhibits)
Rooms B, C, E
Agriculture Building
Calgary Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . October 27 - 31

Women of Unifarm — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . November 2 - 3

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . November 3 - 4

Northlands Farmfair
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . November 4 - 15

The North American Symposium on Allelopathy
University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois . . . . November 14 - 17

Edmonton Northlands Charolais Sale
Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . November 15

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
West of Nordegg, Alberta . . . . November 15 - 17

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . November 19 - 23

Agribition and Mexabition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . November 27 - December 3

National Farmers Union National Convention
Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . November 29 - December 3

Agribition Charolais Sale
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . November 30

Alberta Polled Hereford Association — Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . December 5

Alberta Cattle Commission — Annual Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . December 6 - 8

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

	1983
Palliser Wheat Growers Association – Annual Convention Westin Hotel Calgary, Alberta	January 3 - 6
Unifarm Annual Convention Edmonton, Alberta	January 11 - 14
Alberta Pork Seminar Banff Centre Banff, Alberta	January 19 - 21
Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd Westin Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 20 - 22
Alberta Canola Growers Convention Edmonton, Alberta	January 26 - 28
Canadian Charolais – Annual Convention and Charolais National Sale Fort Garry Hotel Winnipeg, Manitoba	February 3 - 5
Provincial Service Board Conference Capri Hotel Red Deer, Alberta	February 6 - 9
Alberta Charolais Association – Annual Meeting Medicine Hat, Alberta	February 18 - 19
Edmonton Northlands Stock Show Edmonton, Alberta	March 20 - 25
Alberta Dairy Seminar Banff Centre Banff, Alberta	April 6 - 8
Associated Country Women of the World World Conference Vancouver, B.C	June 19 - 29
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour Picture Butte, Alberta	July 6 - 8
Agriculture Institute of Canada Truro, Nova Scotia	July 10 - 14

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 1 3 1982

July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ne: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN BARLEY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Non-board barley elevator prices are expected to decline by the fall of 1982 to the $90 per tonne range, unless adverse weather, resulting in a shortfall of the Canadian or world feedgrain crops, occurs. Prices after November should increase slowly into the spring of 1983 provided Canadian barley exports maintain a strong pace.

Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch does not expect that an interim CWB payment during 1982-83 will be made despite the weak Canadian dollar.

Alberta farmers have planted 6.45 million acres of barley in 1982, down 1.5 per cent from the record 1981 acreage. Canadian farmers planted 13.2 million acres of barley in 1982, down 3.5 per cent from 1981. Although parts of Alberta have experienced some drought, Mr. Lyster says that the Canadian barley yield is expected to be about average resulting in a 12.7 million tonne crop.

A Canadian barley crop of this size will result in record 1982-83 barley supplies of 16.7 million tonnes.

Canadian barley exports during 1981-82 will be at record levels, an expected 6 million tonnes, which is 90 per cent above the same period in 1980-81. Barley exports during 1982-83 are expected to remain strong, states Mr. Lyster, but are unlikely to exceed 1981 82 levels.

Domestic barley usage is expected to be similar to 1980-81 levels and to increase marginally during the upcoming crop year. The current level of usage will result in July 31, 1982 carryover stock of approximately 4 million tonnes. Carryover stocks a year later are expected to be slightly higher at 4.1 million tonnes.

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Canadian Barley Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

World feedgrain production for 1982-83 is estimated at 771 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the record 1981-82 crop. A record crop, combined with larger carry over stocks, will result in increased world feedgrain supplies. Although world usage will increase slightly, it will not draw down stocks and, therefore, carryover stocks for 1982-83 are expected to be burdensome.

The above article is based on information available at the end of June, 1982.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN CANOLA SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Country elevator prices for canola have been in the $290 to $305 per tonne range since February, 1982 but are expected to decline slightly into the $275 to $285 per tonne range by September. From this time forward, prices should improve slowly and reach current levels by mid-winter.

Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst, Les Lyster, expects that usage during the upcoming year will be limited by supplies, not export or domestic demand. Canadian canola supplies have been very tight during the current crop year and another sharp drop in available supplies will occur in the 1982-83 crop year.

Despite the tight Canadian supplies, the impact on world oilseed prices is minimal. However, declines in U.S. soybean and product prices are expected to push canola prices lower. Declines in canola prices may be limited to some extent by further erosion in the value of the Canadian dollar.

Carryover stocks of canola at July 31, 1982 will be tight at around 630,000 tonnes. This level of carryover is 52 per cent below July, 1981 and is the smallest carryover since 1978.

Because Canadian carryover stocks are tight, 1982-83 supplies will be mainly decided by the size of this year's crop. Canada's 1982 canola acreage, an estimated 4.13 million acres, is up 19 per cent from year ago levels. The Canadian crop is expected to be about 2 million tonnes, resulting in total 1982-83 supplies of 2.6 million tonnes, 15 per cent below current year levels and the smallest supply since 1977-78.

The sharp drop in available supplies will result in reduced exports and crush during 1982-83, according to Mr. Lyster. Exports will be around 1.15 million tonnes, 15 per

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Canadian Canola Situation And Outlook (cont'd.

cent below 1981-82 exports. Supplies will affect crushing to the extent that widespread crusher shutdowns for extended periods of time during 1982-83 are expected. Canola seed supplies will continue to be tight until the 1983, and perhaps until the 1984 crop has been harvested.

In view of the tight canola supplies expected in 1982-83, export and crusher quotas are expected to be large. The crusher quota is expected to open at 25 bushels per acre and the elevator quota to open at 5 bushels per acre or more.

Mr. Lyster concludes that, given the high carrying charges, there does not appear to be any merit in holding old crop canola. Even modest rallies should be used for forward price a portion of the new crop.

The above article is based on information available at the end of June, 1982.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN WHEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

World wheat production during 1982-83 is expected to be large, trade is expected to decline and a further build-up of stocks is likely to occur. Although world wheat usage will increase slightly, 1982-83 world wheat carryover is expected to build up to around 94 million tonnes, 10 million tonnes above 1981-82 levels.

Les Lyster, grain market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says that Canadian wheat acreage is up, at 31.17 million acres, 1.5 per cent above the record 1981 acreage. Alberta farmers planted 6.85 million acres of wheat in 1982, which was up slightly from 1981.

Crop conditions are generally good throughout Canada, although Alberta has suffered some drought. If yields are slightly above average, the 1982 Canadian wheat crop will be around 24.6 million tonnes, the largest crop ever grown.

Larger carryover stocks from 1981-82, combined with a large crop, will result in total 1982-83 wheat supplies of about 35 million tonnes which is the largest since 1971-72. Canadian durum supplies are also expected to be above 1981-82 levels.

Canadian wheat exports will reach record levels during 1981-82. Total wheat exports, including flour, will be approximately 17.8 million tonnes, 9 per cent above 1980-81 levels. Because of stiff competition from other countries and the limitations of the transportation and handling system, Mr. Lyster says it is unlikely that wheat exports during 1982-83 will exceed current year levels.

Wheat carryover stocks at July 31, 1983 are likely to be about 2 million tonnes above July 1982 levels. Therefore, CWB quotas are expected to remain restrictive.

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Canadian Wheat Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

World wheat prices have generally been declining since the end of 1980. During 1982-83 the world wheat market is expected to remain weak. In the near term, it is expected to bottom by late July, show some strength until December, then move lower again into the summer of 1983. World wheat prices in the summer of 1983 may well be below current levels. Mr. Lyster advises farmers to maximize sales into the 1981-82 CWB price pool despite the weak Canadian dollar.

The above article is based on information available at the end of June, 1982.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY MARKET SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Production and market prospects for honey in 1982 are mixed, reports David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

Although production prospects over western Canada are generally good, production in Alberta may be lower because of dry conditions in the northern half of the province. Favorable prospects for the southern half of the province are unlikely to offset losses in the Peace River, according to Mr. Walker.

The 1981 Canadian honey crop was estimated to be a record 34,764 tonnes, 19 per cent above 1980 output. The 1981 Alberta honey crop was a record 10,428 tonnes, two per cent above 1980 levels. Canadian export volumes were down for the nine months to March 1982 compared to the same period in 1980-81, but this was almost offset by an increase in average export values.

Mr. Walker states that poor economic conditions are likely to lower the demand for honey. However, the decline of the Canadian dollar and the impact of the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan program on the market may offset this. With the CCC program continuing for at least a further year, the U.S. is likely to continue to be a valuable market for Canadian supplies.

Pressure on market prices may mount if economic conditions continue to decline or if there is a significant increase in Canadian production. Canadian honey market prospects are particularly susceptible to any changes in the U.S. program that would restrict trade between the two countries.

The above article is based on information available at the end of June, 1982.

July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALVES CONTRIBUTE TO 4-H FOUNDATION

by Bob Coe
4-H Staff Reporter

Fetching over two dollars per pound, this 4-H calf contributed more than $2,000 to the 4-H Foundation of Alberta

The sale of four calves, donated to the 4-H Foundation of Alberta by various individuals and organizations has netted more than $7,500 to this volunteer organization. The sales were held at the 4-H Achievement Day shows and sales in the Calgary and Wainwright areas.

The largest contribution came from the raffle of two sides of the carcass of a calf, donated by the Alberta Pinzgauer Association. The calf was raised by Robin Smith of Olds, a member of the Eagle Beef 4-H Club. Organized by the Mountainview District 4-H Council, the raffle took place at the Olds 4-H Beef Show and Sale. Ed Ness of Calgary, vice-chairman of the provincial 4-H Foundation, accepted the cheque for $2,352.

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Calves Contribute To 4-H Foundation (cont'd)

The sale of a Hereford steer donated by John Taylor of the Poplar Bluff Stock Farm, Chauvin raised $2,050 at the Wainwright District 4-H Show and Sale. Raised by John and Janice Taylor, age 14 and 10 respectively, of the Chauvin 4-H Beef Club, the 1,015 pound calf brought $2.02 per pound. Larry Williams of Camrose, member of the board of directors of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, accepted the cheque from Mitch Yurko of Gainers, Inc.

Mr. Williams accepted another cheque for $1,715 at the Flagstaff District 4-H Sale in Hardisty. The calf was donated and raised by a well known district auctioneer, Warren (Tip) Henderson of the Little Valley View Ranch at Forestburg. Selling for $1.40 per pound, the 1,225 pound calf was purchased by Les Bishop of the Provost Livestock Exchange.

A calf donated by the Canadian Hays-Converter Association, selling for $1.40 per pound, raised $1,436. The calf, raised by a former member of the Okotoks 4-H Beef Club, Greg Rockafellow of Blackie, was sold at "4-H On Parade" in Calgary. Chairman of the provincial 4-H Foundation, Don Heimbecker of Calgary, received the cheque from United Feeds of Okotoks.

This project for donating calves to the 4-H Foundation of Alberta was initiated last August during the Provincial 4-H Rally at Battle Lake. Funds raised by the sale of calves and grain contribute to the development of the Provincial 4-H Centre at Battle Lake, 50 km west of Wetaskiwin.

Individuals interested in contributing a calf or grain to the 4-H Foundation of Alberta are invited to write to Box 550, Edmonton, or telephone 4-H headquarters in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY QUALITY FACTORS

There are many factors which determine the quality of hay and most of them can be controlled, according to Myron Bjorge, field crops branch, Alberta Agriculture. A number of things should be looked at when assessing the quality and feeding value of hay.

- Leafiness — since most of the feeding value is contained in the leaves, avoid raking or baling hay when the leaves are very dry, especially in the case of legumes.
- Color — bright green hay is usually high in carotene (vitamin A) and protein. Remember weathering and stage of maturity at cutting time will influence the color.
- Palatability — this affects the amount an animal will eat voluntarily.
- Freedom from foreign material such as weeds, stubble from the previous crop, dirt and dust.
- Freedom from toxic materials.

Sources of Losses

A serious loss in quality occurs when hay is harvested too late. In fact, it is estimated that as the plants mature, protein losses average a quarter of a per cent per day and the fibre content increases by a third of a per cent per day. This results in a reduction in digestibility and intake of the feed as well as in its feeding value.

Most forages in the early bloom stage are still relatively high in digestible nutrients. Since there is no significant increase in volume after this stage, there is no point in waiting any longer before harvesting the crop. The recommended time to harvest legumes is when they are in the 10 per cent bloom stage and grasses when they are between heading and blooming.

Swathing, windrowing, mowing, raking, baling, handling and feeding all contribute to dry matter losses and care must be taken to ensure shattering losses are kept to a minimum after hay has been cut. Research studies have shown shattering losses can vary from 4 to

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Hay Quality Factors (cont'd)

20 per cent, depending upon the moisture content of the hay. Raking losses have been reported to vary between 5 and 10 per cent in the case of native hay and to range as high as 25 per cent in the case of tame hay, particularly if it is raked when its moisture content is below 40 per cent.

Pickup adjustment is important in the minimization of these kinds of losses. Losses during this operation vary between one and three per cent, but have been reported to be as high as five per cent when pickups are poorly adjusted or poor windrow conditions prevailed. Losses at the bale chamber were around one per cent.

Fresh cut forage continues to breathe until its moisture content drops below 25 per cent, and there is research evidence to suggest that between the time the crop is cut and dried, respiration losses can cause a dry matter loss of seven to 11 per cent. Hence, the shorter the drying time the better.

Plants contain some sugars and protein in soluble form which can be readily washed out by rain, thereby further reducing the nutritive level of the feed. It has been suggested that a rainfall of one inch on a hay crop can cause a loss of 3.5 per cent.

Hay which is stored too damp will heat. If the temperature in the stack exceeds 40° C a complex reaction occurs between the protein and the sugars in the plant material which makes them indigestible. This is sometimes referred to as the "browning" reaction because heated hay appears brown and has a tobacco odor.

Therefore, to put up high quality feed involves harvesting the forage at the proper stage, using well adjusted equipment, a skilled operator, and baling or stacking and storing at the proper moisture content. Of course, a little co-operation from the weather will help!

July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY WEEK AND HIGHWAY SAFETY

Farm Safety Week is July 25 - 31. Accidents involving farm machinery on highways are increasing and nearly 90 per cent involve collisions with other motor vehicles.

Most accidents occur during the peak farming season, May to September, when a farmer can least afford the lost time. These accidents occur for a number of reasons the large size of equipment and other motorists misjudging this size; farm equipment turning across the path of a motor vehicle; equipment failure and defective lighting.

The Farm Safety Program of Alberta Agriculture stresses the following preventative measures:

- define the limits of your equipment with flags or lights,
- travel when traffic is lightest and use appropriate headlights, tail lights, reflectors, etc.,
- before entering a road, display a slow moving vehicle sign, adjust mirrors, check lights and brakes, etc.,
- check your steering mechanism and tire pressure regularly,
- allow sufficient time to cross a road or lane of traffic,
- choose your route with care to avoid heavy traffic and narrow roads,
- signal for turning well ahead of time,
- when towing equipment use the throttle rather than the brakes to slow down to avoid jack-knifing, and
- when buying new equipment, consider ease of transportation.

Most accidents involving farm equipment on the highways can be prevented if common-sense rules and consideration for other vehicles are observed. Farm equipment and motor vehicles can share the road in safety.

For further information on rural safety, contact the Alberta Safety Council in Edmonton at 428-7555 or the Farm Safety Program of Alberta Agriculture at 427-8943.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONGENITAL DEFECTS IN PIGS

Congenital defects in pigs is the topic of a new Alberta Agriculture publication and forms part of the Alberta Pork Production Handbook.

The material presented in this factsheet summarizes the current state of knowledge on defective conditions in pig populations. Congenital defects are not necessarily inherited and may instead be caused by such things as hormone imbalance in the pregnant female, her health or nutritional state, or the presence of minute amounts of toxic substances in her diet.

Linking congenital defects with non-genetic factors is supported by three specific examples of defects in pigs - shaker pigs, spraddles or splay leg, and inverted nipples.

Although congenital defects observed in pigs cannot clearly be attributed to genetics, at the same time no breeder can ignore the possibility that inheritance may be implicated. Culling options for the pig breeder are outlined along with the results that can be expected.

Results of studies on congenital defects indicate that pig breeders should cease to be preoccupied with congenital disorders and concentrate on health, nutrition, management and selection programs to correct the one defect of genuine economic significance - poor performance.

"Congenital Defects" (Agdex 440/30-3) and other portions of the "Pork Production Handbook" are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON HOSTS NATIONAL MEETING

The Canadian Home Economics Association Convention, held July 5 - 9 in Edmonton, attracted over 400 national and international professional home economists.

"Linking Beyond Boundaries" was the focus for the five-day conference. Mr. Marcel Masse, director of the Canadian International Development Agency, delivered the keynote address, "Linking Beyond Boundaries — Implications in the Third World". Mr. Masse outlined how the professional home economist would become an integral component in the development of the third world countries.

There followed over 60 hours of programming which addressed topics on how home economists could link locally and nationally with the third world countries.

A highlight for all conference delegates was "Elegance Albertine", a fashion show of 10 Alberta designers. This fashion show and luncheon event at the Citadel featured a variety of designs from four Calgary and six Edmonton designers.

The Canadian Home Economics Association is a professional association for graduates of consumer and family studies, foods and nutrition, home economics and human ecology. The association works to promote the well-being of individuals and families and to serve home and community life in Canada.

Members of the Canadian Home Economics Association are actively engaged in teaching, research, extension, business, dietetics, human services, journalism, and voluntary community and professional service.

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July 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROGRAM TO OFFSET HOME RENOVATION COSTS

Have you been putting off those home renovations because of the expense involved? Now may be the opportune time to start them, Nancy Nicholson of farm business management branch, Alberta Agriculture, reports.

Canada Mortgage and Housing has recently initiated a program to help the homeowner cover the costs involved in home renovations. They are offering a forgiveable loan up to $3,000 to cover up to 30 per cent of the costs of repairing or improving your home through the Canada Home Renovation Plan (CHRP).

To qualify for CHRP you must:

- own and occupy your property for at least one year after work is completed.
- intend to complete a minimum of $2,500 in renovations, at least one-third of which will be spent on contracted labor.
- be able to provide for the balance of costs not covered by this forgiveable loan through: cash equity, personal loan, conventional mortgage loan, home improvement loan, etc.
- have a household income not exceeding $48,000. (If you are self employed this would represent net income).

Repairs and alterations to your residence and improvements that are permanently installed or built into the structure of your home and are intended for residential use will be considered under CHRP. Things such as swimming pools, greenhouses, landscaping, fences, private driveways, saunas, household appliances or the removal of insulation material are not eligible. As well, material eligible for assistance under the Canadian Home Insulation Program (CHIP) and Canada Oil Substitution Program (COSP) do not qualify.

Limited funds have been allocated for this program and the loans will only be available while the allocated funds last.

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Program To Offset Home Renovation Costs (cont'd)

Further information and application forms for CHRP can be obtained from your nearest office of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Offices are located in:

Edmonton	-	482-3431
Red Deer	-	343-6677
Calgary	-	265-6860
Lethbridge	-	328-5581

Farmers may also be interested in obtaining a copy of the publication "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex No.871) by Alberta Agriculture. This publication provides a complete listing of other financial aid programs available to the farmers in this province. Copies can be obtained from the farm business management branch in Olds (556-8421), from your district extension office, or from Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

(403) 427-2121

July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEBISCITE ON PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ALBERTA POTATO MARKETING BOARD

On July 5, 1982 the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council commenced a plebiscite on the establishment of an Alberta Potato Marketing Board as requested by the Alberta Potato Growers' Association.

All eligible potato producers in the province must register with the Marketing Council before 12:00 noon on August 4, 1982 in order to receive a ballot to vote on the plebiscite. An eligible producer is any person who during 1981:

(i) planted five acres or more of potatoes,

(ii) was licensed by the Alberta Potato Commission under The Agricultural Pests Act, 1974, and

(iii) offered for sale all or any part of his production.

Any eligible producer who does not receive a registration form in the mail should contact the Marketing Council Office prior to the August 4th deadline.

Persons having questions regarding the proposed Alberta Potato Marketing Board or the conduct of the plebiscite should contact any of the directors of the Alberta Potato Growers' Association or the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Phone: 427-2164, Edmonton).

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANCE FOR RESEARCH ON NUTRITIVE PRODUCTS

When the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement was renewed last fall for an additional three years, a new provision was added to encourage research into nutritive products and their processing.

Like the original agreement that was signed in 1977, the renewed agreement provides grants to encourage the building, expansion and modernization of nutritive processing facilities. And the new provision makes those involved in private nutritive processing research and in the development of new products eligible for assistance.

The level of assistance that is available for nutritive product research and development projects depends upon the capital cost of the project. In Edmonton and Calgary a grant cannot exceed 10 per cent of the capital cost and the maximum grant per project is $500,000. In the rest of the province the grant can be as high as 20 per cent of the capital cost and there is no limit on the maximum grant.

Forty per cent of a grant is paid when 50 per cent of the project's assets are in place, and another 40 per cent is paid when the project becomes operational. The remaining 20 per cent is paid after a three-year control period.

Dr. Jim Wiebe, executive director of Alberta Agriculture's rural development section, says product research and development are extremely important for providing nutritive processors with up-to-date technology. He also says that there are many possibilities for the value-added processing of agricultural products in Alberta, and that product research and development increases the chances of realizing these possibilities.

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Assistance For Research On Nutritive Products (cont'd)

And Don Lennie, who is the director-general in Alberta for the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion, says nutritive processors are not the only ones who will benefit from research into nutritive processing. He points out that the development of innovative processing techniques contributes to the on-going improvement in the effectiveness and the efficiency of the industry, which, in turn, leads to more and better products for the consumer at a lower cost.

Dr. Wiebe and Mr. Lennie both serve on the joint federal-provincial committee that oversees the administration of the Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Further information on the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Agreement can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe Executive Director, Rural Development, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone:427-4287).

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREAKTHROUGH IN ALFALFA WINTERKILL RESEARCH

A special alfalfa winterkill simulation test has emerged that brings new light upon the relative winterkill resistance of 25 varieties of alfalfa. Jim Mackenzie, a research scientist at the federal agricultural research station in Beaverlodge, says the test greatly speeds up the process of identifying improved alfalfa varieties as they are released on the market.

"This is the first year we've run the simulation test with a large number of alfalfa varieties," Mr. Mackenzie says. "We took a gamble that the test would work and it did."

The experiment entailed artificially creating a stress situation which could occur naturally given the right climatic conditions.

There were a few surprises as a result of the test. The field stress test clearly identified two new varieties which have improved hardiness over the Peace variety.

Heinrichs from Swift Current, Saskatchewan, a variety just licensed this year, appears to have more winter hardiness than Peace, yet still has good production potential. Mr. Mackenzie notes that Heinrichs may not be so winter hardy if it goes into winter with low food reserves.

The second variety to display increased hardiness over Peace was S7312 from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, a variety not yet licensed. Seed of this crown-rot resistant variety should be available to farmers by 1984 or 1985.

Chimo, a Flemish variety that is widely used by the dehy industry, came through poorly on the test. It demonstrated little winter hardiness which may be the reason the industry lost $4 million in 1981 because of winterkill.

A first choice of western producers, Beaver alfalfa, was surpassed in resistance to winterkill by eight other varieties.

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Breakthrough In Alfalfa Winterkill Research (cont'd)

Anik, a Siberian alfalfa variety, did the best of all the varieties in the winterkill testing but to its detriment is relatively low yielding.

As new varieties of alfalfa come on the market, this special alfalfa winterkill simulation test will be able to assess their winter hardiness and thus their usefulness to northern farmers.

For more information on this or other aspects of winterkill call Jim Mackenzie at 354-2212 in Beaverlodge.

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CORRECTION

The second paragraph in the article entitled "Future Trade Opportunities For Alberta's Livestock Industries" (July 5 issue of Agri-News) should read:

Canada, and particularly Alberta, should concentrate on penetrating the fastest growing U.S. market — the Pacific northwest. Alberta should emphasize the states of Washington, Oregon and Northern California for both beef and pork as well as the Pacific Rim countries. Lowering of the U.S. tariff on livestock during the period 1978-1987 should result from the last round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), making the United States tariff on livestock insignificant by 1987. When export floor prices and import ceiling prices are closer, facilitation of agricultural trade between Canada and the U.S. will likely occur for cattle and beef.

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MANAGEMENT DATA MANUAL (VOLUMES I AND II)

Would you like to amaze your friends by telling them the number of seeds per gram for different crops varies from 3 per gram for fababeans to 11,000 per gram for redtop grass?

To prove this statement, all you have to do is open the newly revised Farm Management Data Manual at page 100-0.2 and the chart there shows it all!

If you want to find out the incubation period for Guinea hen hatching eggs you can look it up in the section on animal science. In the miscellaneous data subdivision you will find the anwer — 26 - 28 days.

You can also look up the rate of returns for family labor on dairy farms in Alberta. Again, turn to the animal science section and look for the subdivision on dairying. You will find a chart which gives family labor rates on a dairy farm.

The Farm Management Data Manual comes in two volumes and is intended to provide a source of input - output relationships for some agricultural practices. Although it is not intended to be a production manual or encyclopedia, it is a useful reference for finding information not readily available to most people. When you find information in the data manual, you will usually find that it recommends a source that will provide you with more detailed or complete information on the topic.

The two volumes of the manual contain more than 700 pages of information and are divided into eight different sections on the basis of the Agdex system of classification of material. There is a complete table of contents at the beginning of Volume 1, and a similar table of contents will also be found at the beginning of each subdivision.

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Farm Management Data Manual Manual (Volumes I And II) (cont'd)

Some of the material in the manual will be periodically updated and every subscriber will be sent the updated material free of charge as it is published.

Earlier publications of the Farm Management Data Manual have had a wide distribution and have subscribers from as far away as Australia, Germany, Korea and Japan. And the current mailing list of data manual holders has addresses from every province in Canada. The majority of people who use it are farmers. Other users are employed by governments, universities and colleges, banks, financial institutions and agri-business. Over 1,200 sets of the new edition were mailed to subscribers in April.

The revised edition costs $10 per set, and cheques should be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer. Requests and cheques should be sent to Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GILSON RECOMMENDS CROW BENEFIT PAYMENT BE SHIFTED TO THE PRODUCER

In Clay Gilson's recent recommendations to the federal government regarding the Crow rate issue, he recommends a method for paying the Crow benefit. In the 1982-83 crop year payment will be made totally to the railways, but in each year thereafter an increasing portion of this payment will go directly to the producer, until 1989-90, when the proportions would be fixed at 81 per cent to the producers and 19 per cent to the railways.

What impact will paying the federal funds directly to the producer have on the western provinces?

This method of payment will indirectly provide benefits to the processing and livestock industries without adding further costly incentives and controls. If the producer receives the payment, the benefits are as follows:

. disincentives to value-added industries will be removed without including more products under the Crow rate

. farmers would be free to select the mode of transportation best for them such as trucking or some combined mode

. payment to grain farmers would assist farmers with cash flow particularly if the payment is made early in the year

. payment to grain farmers would assist them in financing other enterprises such as livestock, specialty crops or some other business action/adjustment

. it will remove the discriminations against diversification to other miscellaneous crops which currently move at compensatory rates

. efficiencies in transportation should be encouraged without the need for legislation

- (cont'd) -

Gilson Recommends Crow Benefit Payment Be Shifted To The Producer (cont'd)

. it will remove the tendency for lower rates to escalate domestic prices of crops carried at the lower rate.

The "pay the producer" method is not a simple one and some adjustment will have to be made. The administration of this policy will be more complex. Politics will dictate compromises. Regions with a high grain-producing base and a low livestock base will not favor a solution that spreads the Crow benefit to other sectors such as livestock.

A plan that pays the producer who then pays compensatory rates will provide some incentives for the livestock and secondary processing industries with benefits accruing to the grain producer through incentives for an improved grain transportation system.

For further information contact Norm Thomson, Planning Secretariat
Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIRY RING IN LAWNS

To many homeowners in Alberta, fairy rings are a persistent and perplexing problem. Elimination of fairy rings is very difficult and sometimes impossible. However, there are methods whereby these rings can be suppressed and in some cases eradicated.

Fairy ring disease is recognized in early summer by the appearance of circular bands or rings in which the grass is darker green and faster growing than adjacent areas. The larger rings usually consist of a dark green vigorous outer band which surrounds a band of very weakly colored grass and this in turn may enclose an area of normal grass in the center. During periods of wet weather, mushroom-like structures develop along the circumference of the ring.

The disease is caused by one or another of several different fungi which feed on organic matter in the soil and produce a growth network that spreads and prevents normal water penetration. Fairy rings are most severe in soils of low fertility and inadequate moisture.

Few commercially available lawn fungicides have much effect on eliminating fairy rings, but there are measures you can follow on your own. Control measures can be divided into those which suppress ring symptoms and those which actually eradicate the fungus.

Betty Vladicka, extension horticulturist with Alberta Agriculture, explains a method for suppressing fairy ring disease.

Starting 30 cm outside the outer green zone and working inwards, begin by spiking the infected turf every 10 cm with a garden fork to a depth of 25 cm. Next, make up a solution using a turf wetting agent (e.g., Aquatrol) or a mild liquid dish detergent. Take a large bucket of water, add a small squirt of wetting agent and water the spiked portion of the ring until the spike holes will take no more. Soak the spiked area daily for four to eight weeks using plain water. If done thoroughly, this method can suppress the disease and in some cases eliminate it.

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Fairy Ring In Lawns (cont'd)

A word of caution. Before using the same implements on other areas of lawn, sterilize them in hypochlorite bleach to prevent spreading the fungus.

Eradication of fairy rings is more difficult than suppressing them but can be achieved by using a fungicide and stripping the turf. During a period when the fungus is active, strip the turf from 30 cm outside the outer green ring to inside the bare zone, being careful not to contaminate other areas with this strip. Next, break up the soil of the ring with a digging fork to its full depth starting round the circumference. Then sprinkle the area with a fungicide of the following solution:

2.5 L of 40 per cent formaldehyde solution (formalin), 200 mL of a wetting agent (turf wetting agent or dishwashing detergent), and 50 L water. Cover and seal the treated area with polyethylene for 7 to 10 days, then remove the cover and stir the soil with a garden fork. Leave for two to three weeks to eliminate the formaldehyde gas, then level the area with top-soil and reseed or returf.

Controlling fairy ring disease involves the thorough application of the procedures outlined as well as good turf management to reduce the chance of reinfection.

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALL THE HORT-LINE

What can you do to get rid of cabbage worms?

When is it best to transplant trees?

Find out these answers and many more on the hort-line, a service of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre of Alberta Agriculture.

The hort-line has short tape-recorded messages giving gardening tips on topics ranging from pest control to houseplant care to garden projects.

Gardeners can find out about root maggots, control of forest caterpillars and fairy ring, or building a hotbed.

Don't miss these topics coming up:

- composting
- transplanting trees
- storage of pesticides
- needle browning of evergreens
- cabbage worms
- spruce spider mites

Phone hort-line 973-6877, today! The line is open 24 hours, every day and the messages change every Tuesday and Friday. The number 973-6877 is a local call as far north as Legal, east to Fort Saskatchewan and Ardrossan, south of Edmonton to Leduc, and west to Stony Plain and Onoway.

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WCFA CONVENTION '82

How do top canola and barley producers operate? What will the top farm managers of the future be doing?

Phil Thomas and Murrary McLelland of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch will present the results of an extensive study of top Alberta producers at the annual Western Canada Fertilizer Association (WCFA) Convention '82, September 8 - 10, in the Delta Bow Valley Inn, Calgary.

Plan now to attend the exciting and timely technical program and take in the following:

- A profile of the type of farmer who is most likely to take advantage of soil testing is provided by David Correy of Elanco.
- Jim Engibous of Washington State University will evaluate the energy balance involved in the use of fertilizer and attempt to put into perspective the energy used in fertilizer in relation to the total amount of energy consumed in food production.
- The economics of fertilizer use under current economic conditions is presented by Werner Nelson of the Potash and Phosphate Institute.
- Find out how tax costs affect the final price of fertilizer products from Joe Fraser of Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd.
- The Canadian Fertilizer Institute's representative, Jim Brown, will provide an update on the performance of the fertilizer industry in western Canada during the business meeting.

In addition to the technical program you are invited to attend the annual business meeting and take part in the golf and racquet sports.

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WCFA Convention '82 (cont'd)

The added bonus this year is an expanded ladies' program available to women who wish to attend the convention with their spouse and share an exciting and enjoyable time in Calgary.

The convention will open with registration and a reception on the evening of September 8 and will conclude with lunch on September 10.

The registration fee is $175 and for the ladies' program, $50, and should be in before August 9.

For more information contact Gay Mathieson, WCFA Convention '82, P.O. Box 2500, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2N1 (Phone: (403) 279-1111).

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July 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF MARKETING APPOINTED

Mr. H.B. McEwen, deputy minister of Alberta Agriculture, announced today the appointment of Barry D. Mehr to the post of assistant deputy minister of marketing. The appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Mehr assumes the position after being the department's assistant deputy minister for international marketing for the past year. His new responsibilities include integrating a number of market development and assistance programs into the department's revamped marketing sector which is made up of the marketing services and rural development divisions and the international marketing group.

The primary objectives of the new sector will be to increase emphasis on the optimizing of producer returns from domestic and export marketing of Alberta agricultural commodities, processed products and technical services. The sector will also encourage further development of the province's food processing sector.

A graduate of food chemistry from the University of Toronto, Mr. Mehr brings to the position considerable experience in both the public and private sector. Between 1977 and 1981 he was Alberta Agriculture's international trade director for the United States. Prior to that he was employed by Agriculture Canada, ultimately as head of their market development unit. His previous positions have also included assistant general beef manager for Swift Canadian Ltd. and general sales manager for Swift Eastern Ltd.

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AGRI-NEWS

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EIGHTEEN PROJECTS APPROVED FOR GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

Eighteen individuals will receive financial awards under the Graduate Student Research Support Program, a sub-program of Farming for the Future.

The Graduate Student Research Support Program was established in January, 1982 and is designed to support and encourage graduate student research in the agricultural sciences.

Dr. Yilma Teklemariam, research co-ordinator of Alberta Agriculture's research and administration sector, says the aim of the program is to encourage the training of new scientists in the agricultural field as well as benefit the agricultural industry through the development of new technology.

Of the 27 projects reviewed, 18 were approved, 16 from the University of Alberta, and two from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. From the University of Alberta, 13 projects came from the faculty of agriculture and forestry, two from the faculty of home economics and one from the faculty of science.

The 18 awards totalled $123,650, with an average of $6,833 being awarded per project. Students were eligible for awards of up to $10,000.

A wide range of projects was approved.

A project submitted by James MacArthur, department of rural economy, University of Alberta, is aimed at documenting the margins between farm gate wholesale and retail prices for beef, pork, poultry and lamb. This study will provide the agricultural industry with a perspective on what is happening to the price margins and consumption trends for Alberta red meats and poultry.

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Eighteen Projects Approved For Graduate Student Research Program (cont'd)

Bonnie Kirkpatrick, department of animal science, University of Alberta, will work to develop improved methods for evaluating protein in dairy cow rations with an emphasis on chemical methods. The successful completion of the project would allow the Alberta feed industry to formulate rations on the basis of the new protein system.

The objective of a project by Jeremy Leonard, department of agricultural engineering, University of Alberta, is to design a ventilation inlet system that will function consistently in Alberta conditions and is simple and cheap enough to be used in new and existing buildings.

A student from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Catherine Ilser, will undertake a study to determine the cause and pathogenesis of "nervous" coccidiosis (fatal disease in cattle) in order to find rational treatment procedures for the disease and take measures to prevent or reduce the incidence of this condition.

Topics of some of the other projects include, "The Effect of Live Weight and Fat Loss on Sow Performance and Productivity", "Fat Mobilization in Dairy Cows in Early Lactation", "Implications to Alberta of Remaining Independent or Participating in the National Chicken Marketing Plan", and "Patterns of Fat Deposition in Mice Selected for High Six Week Body Weight". For more information on the program or a particular project contact the Research and Administration Sector, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF ELECTROLYTES FOR SWINE AND POULTRY

Did you know that when swine and poultry are exposed to stress by such things as excessive handling, transportation, water and feed deprivation or bad weather, the subsequent dehydration and loss of electrolytes (body salts) can result in disease?

Sam Jaikaran, a monogastric nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, points out that electrolytes are components of body fluids, which are essential for the normal functioning of the body. In fact, they are essential to the life process.

It has been shown that water by itself is not suitable for relieving dehydration. Alone, it can actually aggravate the dehydration by diluting the electrolyte reserve in the bloodstream. Mr. Jaikaran explains that a dehydrated animal or bird will react to a drink of water by mobilizing the electrolytes that are in its blood stream and moving them into the intestines where the concentration is lower. When this happens the loss of electrolytes from the body tissues will result in a generalized weakness, referred to as "water intoxication."

Since electrolytes move from an area of high concentration to one of low concentration, their supplementary use in drinking water can increase their concentration in the intestines to the point where the level is higher than it is in the blood stream. Consequently, electrolytes will now move from the intestines into the body. Because the absorption of electrolytes is accompanied by the absorption of water, dehydration is prevented or corrected.

According to Mr. Jaikaran, electrolytes are also important when used with water-soluble antibiotics to treat disease. After having been absorbed from the intestines, water-soluble antibiotics are passed through the liver before they go into general circulation. Because

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The Use Of Electrolytes For Swine And Poultry (cont'd)

they are chemically changed by the action of enzymes in the liver, and then require body fluids to transport them through the body, it is vital that the level of these fluids be maintained by the early recognition and correction of dehydration.

Mr. Jaikaran says electrolytes may be used with any water-soluble medication, and that they work together to maintain or restore the body's fluid balance, thereby achieving an early recovery from disease. He advises all swine and poultry producers to evaluate the economics of using an electrolyte solution and water-soluble antibiotics for treating an infectious disease that is complicated by dehydration.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCREASE IN GREEN FOXTAIL POPULATIONS LINKED TO CONTINUOUS CROPPING

While continuous cropping has a number of benefits, it appears that the control of green foxtail is not one of them. The spread and severity of green foxtail infestations in cultivated land appears to be closely linked to continuous cropping and the use of fertilizers.

According to Walter Yarish, supervisor of weed control and herbicides with Alberta Agriculture, a 22-year continuous cropping and wheat-fallow rotation at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, indicates that foxtail can be readily kept under control in a wheat-fallow or a wheat-wheat-fallow rotation but increases dramatically under continuous cropping.

This was displayed in a non-fertilized area where the number of green foxtail plants per square metre was counted. In wheat-fallow there were no green foxtail plants, in wheat-wheat-fallow there were 0.3 plants, and in continuous cropping there were 828 plants.

When the area was fertilized annually with a nitrogen-phosphorus fertilizer, the results were even more dramatic. On a square metre area, the number of green foxtail plants increased to 0.5 on wheat-fallow, 0.4 on wheat-wheat-fallow, and 1,218 on continuous cropping. While fertilization did not have an impact on green foxtail populations in rotations involving fallow, in continuous cropping it increased the population by 50 per cent.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOSTING CATTLE PROFITS

by Peter Speers
Regional Livestock Supervisor
Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge

While marketers advise beef producers to optimize their returns from our domestic beef market by educating consumers and by using imaginative promotion programs, the big opportunity for producers to improve their profits is by increasing production efficiency.

By exploiting hybrid vigor and by improving nutrition, it is possible for the average cattleman to raise his profits by as much as 100 per cent. Of course, it is always important when raising the level of productivity to consider the associated higher costs. The optimum point should be established and then used as a goal for which to strive.

A 10 per cent increase in a calf crop, for example, can return an extra $30 or more per cow, but remember to take into consideration the extra costs. And an extra 50 pounds in average weaning weights can add a further $23 per head above the extra costs incurred.

The following example, which deals with winter backgrounding calves, will illustrate further how profits can add up when optimum management efficiency methods are used.

		Extra $ Per Head
Health Factors	- every 1% reduction in deaths	$ 3.00
	- sick animals don't perform	$ 3.00 +

- (cont'd) -

Boosting Cattle Profits (cont'd)

Nutrition	- balanced, optimal rations (reduce feed cost from 5¢ to 3¢ per lb)	$30.00
	- correct fodder storage (save 10%)	$10.00
	- avoid wastage in feeding (save 10%)	$10.00
Management	-stress reduction	$ 4.00 +
	- implants	$20.00
	Total Extra Earnings (or savings through lower costs)	$80.00

In addition to the above factors, we can build in to our management system such things as timeliness of sale in relation to market prices. An earlier turnoff at the same weight will permit returns to be either reinvested or used to reduce the debt load. Each month saved on debts at an interest rate of 18 per cent is equivalent to an extra $7 or so per animal. And an earlier turnoff can permit either an earlier restocking or the release of a field for hay production.

July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EFFECT OF GROWTH IMPLANTS AND TRACE MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS ON GAINS OF YEARLING STEERS ON PASTURE

The effect of trace mineral supplementation on the weight gain response to growth implants in yearling steers on pasture was examined in a study at the Thorhild grazing reserve in 1981, reports Ross Gould, head of special projects section of the beef cattle and sheep branch of Alberta Agriculture.

In May of 1981, 50 commercial yearling steers were eartagged, weighed, and every second animal implanted with Ralgro. Steers were randomly assigned to adjacent pastures of mixed grass and legumes. Implanted steers received a second Ralgro implant 57 days after the first.

In the control pasture, colbalt-iodized salt and a regular range mineral containing calcium and phosphorus were provided. In the trial study pasture steers were provided with the regular range mineral plus cobalt-iodized salt fortified with copper, zinc and manganese.

Steers were weighed at 28 day intervals during the course of the study.

Response to the growth implant was greatest at the 29 day weight with lesser responses at the 57, 85 and 113 day weights. This trend of decreasing response has also been reported by others.

Steers in the trace mineral pasture gained 17 per cent more than those in the control pasture. It should be emphasized that because trace mineral treatment groups were on two separate, though adjacent, pastures, part of the difference between mineral groups may have been confounded by inherent differences between the pastures.

A number of conclusions were reached, states Mr. Gould, regarding the use of growth implants and trace mineral supplementation. The use of Ralgro implants in yearling

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The Effect Of Growth Implants And Trace Mineral
Supplements On Gains Of Yearling Steers On Pasture (cont'd)

steers on pasture in this study resulted in an additional 16 per cent weight gain above the untreated animals. Supplying trace minerals in a trace mineral fortified salt resulted in a further 17 per cent additional weight gain in yearling steers. Steers receiving both trace mineral supplements and growth implants therefore gained 37 per cent more than steers receiving no treatment.

Mr. Gould adds that this study does not support the suggestion that a greater response to growth implants might be achieved if yearling steers on pasture were given adequate trace mineral supplementation.

The information from the study should be used with caution as it represents only one trial at Thorhild where a forage analysis showed deficiency in copper, zinc and selenium. In a couple of trials in central Alberta, there was no response to trace minerals but there was no analysis to confirm whether these minerals were deficient in the forage.

The very low cost of feeding trace mineral fortified salt might lead people to feed it on the chance that they would get a response. However, an analysis of forage for trace mineral deficiencies before deciding to use them would probably pay.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESPONSE OF BEEF CATTLE TO GROWTH IMPLANTS UNDER PASTURE CONDITIONS

The results of a recent province-wide study on the use of growth implants in both calves and yearlings under grazing conditions are now available. The study demonstrated that significant returns can be realized through the use of growth implants.

According to Ross Gould of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, one objective of the study was to examine the effect of Ralgro and Synovex on the growth of pasture yearlings and suckling calves. Another objective was to arrange the demonstration trials on farms in as many parts of the province as possible to give producers information on the results of using growth implants under their own local conditions.

The demonstration trials were conducted from 1980 to 1981 and included 2499 suckling calves (implanted 30 to 60 days) and yearlings from 37 co-operating producers on 47 separate herds distributed across Alberta. All trials started between March and June and ended between August and December in 1980 and 1981.

Both Ralgro and Synovex were shown to be useful in promoting growth in cattle under pasture conditions. Ralgro implants produced an increase of 4 to 7.5 per cent in average daily gain (ADG) for suckling heifer and steer calves under pasture conditions. Ralgro also produced an 11 to 19 per cent increase in ADG in yearling heifers and steers on pasture while Synovex S produced a 14 to 18 per cent increase in ADG in pasture yearling steers over the two years reported.

Benefit to cost relationships were encouraging but Mr Gould says they should be interpreted with some degree of caution. For suckling calves the benefit to cost ratio was about 9 to 1 and for yearling steers and heifers it was about 17 to 1.

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Response Of Beef Cattle To Growth Implants Under Pasture Conditions (cont'd)

Mr. Gould concludes that they are now quite confident that the use of implants in both calves and yearlings produces statistically significant returns. However, there were zero and even negative responses in some of the individual trials. This suggests that there may be some rare individual situations where the implants may not return the cost. These are usually where the pasture conditions or quality are very poor because of drought, etc.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGEMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBERTA AGRIBUSINESS

Do you have a small agricultural business? Have you ever thought that you or your staff might benefit from some formal management training but dismissed the idea as being beyond the budget or expertise of a small business? If so, the following information is likely to be of interest to you.

Members of Alberta Agriculture's business analysis branch recently contacted 15 educational institutions in the province -- 10 public colleges, three universities and two technical institutes -- and requested information on their non-credit management courses and workshops. They did this to find out what management development opportunities are available to agribusiness managers in Alberta. And here is what they found out.

. All the institutions offer management development workshops and evening courses through their continuing education divisions. For example, in the fall of 1981, between them, they offered 165 courses which would be of interest to small business managers, and the number offered by individual institutions varied from as few as two to as many as 23. The cost of attending a full day workshop also varied, but the average cost was about $75 per day which included lunch.

. None of the institutions offer regularly scheduled non-credit management courses that are specifically designed for agribusiness managers. However, the subject material used in the courses is general enough to be useful to any business manager. It covers such topics as "How to Operate Your Own Small Business", "Working Capital Management" and "Financial Analysis", etc.

. Most of the institutions contacted were willing and even eager to custom design training sessions for specific groups. Apparently, such session can be arranged to take place

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Management Training Opportunities For Alberta Agribusiness (cont'd)

at the institution, at a local hotel or even at the place of business of the company making the request. The fee for a custom-designed training session is usually based on the cost to the educational institution.

Peter McNeil of the business analysis branch, and one of the people who contacted the institutions, says that Alberta's educational institutions have the potential to fulfil many of the management training needs of small businesses in this province. And he points out that most educational institutions send out free brochures to any business that asks to be put on their mailing list.

So if you are interested in upgrading your own or your staff's management skills, ask the college in your region to put you on its mailing list for its continuing education brochures, and watch for the course or workshop that fits the management training needs of your specific business.

Following is a list of the names, address and telephone numbers of the 15 continuing educational institutions that were contacted.

A) Public Colleges

. Grande Prairie Regional College	10726 - 106 Avenue Grande Prairie, Alta, T8V 4C4.	539-2944
. Fairview College	Box 3000, Fairview, Alta, TOH 1LO.	835-2213
. Keyano College	8115 Franklin Avenue Fort McMurray, Alta, T9H 2H7.	743-7275
. Lakeland College	Vermilion, Alta, TOB 4MO.	853-2971
. Grant MacEwan Community College	Box 1796, Edmonton, Alta, T5J 2P2.	429-2503

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Management Training Opportunities For Alberta Agribusiness (cont'd)

. Olds College	Olds, Alta, TOM 1PO.	556-8344
. Red Deer College	Box 5005, Red Deer, Alta, T4N 5H5.	342-3300
. Mount Royal College	4825 Richard Road, S.W. Calgary, Alta, T3E 6K6.	246-6550
. Lethbridge Community College	Lethbridge, Alta, T1K 1L6.	320-3323
. Medicine Hat College	299 College Drive Medicine Hat, Alta, T1A 3Y6.	527-7141

B) Universities

. University of Alberta	Edmonton, Alta, T6G 2M7.	432-5067
. University of Calgary	2920 - 24 Avenue, N.W. Calgary, Alta, T2N 1N4.	284-5431
. University of Lethbridge	4401 University Drive Lethbridge, Alta, T1K 3M4.	329-2427

C) Technical Institutes

. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	11762 - 106 Street Edmonton, Alta, T5G 2R1.	471-7402
. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	1301 - 16 Avenue, N.W. Calgary, Alta, T2M OL4.	284-8446

July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT TRADE IN THE 1980S

Canadian production will be primarily aimed at domestic consumption and the North American (common) market with additional opportunities limited to pork in southeast Asia and beef and veal in the same region and possibly North Africa and the near East

The enlarged European Economic Community (EEC) offers very little prospect for a market in the 1980s. South America will decline as a competitor over the next decade and Oceania will likely capture more lucrative markets in southeast Asia which will diminish the supply pressure in traditional nearby markets of Canada.

There are indications that the U.S. will remain a net importer of all meat (except poultry) in the next decade. Canada is also expected to be a net importer of beef and veal in 1985. Although Canada is exporting fewer cattle than in the mid-60s, the U.S. is still buying in excess of 90 per cent of Canada's exports, and this trade constitutes the bulk of its livestock export in value terms.

A positive trade balance in meats with the U.S. in 1985 and 1990 would be the result of a relative decline in the price of cereal grains, a decline in the export subsidy of Canadian Wheat Board grains, and efficient utilization of processing and export supporting facilities.

This outcome is predicated on the assumption of freer trade negotiated with the U.S. and the federal government's resolve to let the meat sector compete in domestic and foreign markets. This development could conceivably result in a considerable shift from exporting cattle to exporting beef. However, such a move could occur only gradually and would require more than a decade.

The import demand of the EEC and the Eastern European Bloc (CMEA) will not likely improve. North Africa and the Near East, particularly countries with sizeable balance

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Livestock And Meat Trade In The 1980s (cont'd)

of payment surpluses, may have shortages of red meat by 1985 in excess of 700,000 tonnes of which two-thirds will be beef and veal. The rest will be mutton and lamb.

In the beef and veal sector, Australia and New Zealand remain the predominant suppliers. It is expected that by 1985 these two countries will command in excess of 50 per cent of the supply in economically advanced countries.

We envisage Canada's participation in international beef trade as an exporter on a modest scale by 1985 and as increasing its share, particularly in the North American market, by 1990.

Pork

All countries are becoming more self-sufficient in hog production, as is the case with poultry. The trade in North America has well established flows in both directions adjusted by slight cyclical variations and regional adjustments. We do not expect radical changes in the 1980s although a substitution effect could cause a temporary shift to pork.

Import demand for Canadian pork exists in Japan and non-Muslim southeast Asia, particularly Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and, to a lesser extent, Singapore.

Mutton and Lamb

Canada is expected to double its consumption of mutton and lamb between the 1960s and 1980s. Domestic supply will likely remain constant or increase only slightly so that the additional demand will be supplied by Australia and New Zealand. The even faster growing market of the western and northwestern U.S.A. may stimulate the market for lamb in Canada.

For further information contact Norm Thomson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD PRESERVATION PAMPHLETS

At the prospect of higher prices for imported fresh produce this winter, many people are planning to preserve their own fruits and vegetables.

Food preservation methods include canning, freezing, pickling, curing or drying By following correct procedures for preserving food you will ensure a safe, high quality product.

A number of publications on the preservation of foods are available from the print media branch of Alberta Agriculture:

- Making Pickles and Relishes at Home (Homedex 1153)
- Home Canning (Homedex 1151-1)
- Drying Fruits and Vegetables (Homedex 1157)
- Home Curing (Homedex 1154)
- Garden Carrots (Homedex 1131-11)
- Garden Tomatoes (Homedex 1131-15)
- Canning Canadian Fruits and Vegetables (Homedex 1151)
- Jams, Jellies and Pickles (Homedex 1152)
- Smoking Foods at Home (Homedex 1154-2)
- Control of Condensation in Fruit and Vegetable Storage (FS732-5)
- Home Storage Room for Fruits and Vegetables (250/60)
- Food Preservation — A Problem Solving Guide (Homedex 1150-1)

Copies of these publications are available from any district home economist's office or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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July 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED AT VEGREVILLE

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, announced the appointment of Dr. Gil Flores to the position of plant pathologist.

Dr. Flores will be primarily responsible for research on development, spread, and control of economically important diseases of forage crops. He will also be involved in diagnostic and extension activities.

Before joining the centre, Dr. Flores worked on root diseases of pulse crops as a research associate on a Farming for the Future contract at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. Earlier he was engaged in research and extension activities concerning diseases of cotton and legume crops at two research stations in Uganda.

Dr. Flores earned a M.Sc. in India, and was awarded M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta and the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

Dr. and Mrs. Flores and their two children reside in Vegreville.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Feed Freight Assistance Program for drought stricken producers in northern areas of the province has been announced by Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The program is intended to help farmers whose pastures or forage crops have been severely reduced by low moisture levels this spring and summer and who will need to secure fall and winter supplies to maintain their basic herds.

Under the program, assistance will be paid for feed bought to maintain basic beef and dairy herds, sheep and goat flocks and breeding horse herds. 'Backgrounders' will also be eligible, that is calves and lambs born and weaned in 1982 and which will be fed over the winter 1982-83.

The Feed Freight Assistance Program applies to designated areas of Alberta in which local agricultural development committees and elected municipal groups have evaluated conditions and requested participation from Alberta Agriculture. Current designated areas are County 1, Municipal Districts 130, 133, 135 and 136 and Improvement Districts 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. Other areas may be designated as conditions dictate.

Final assistance levels have not yet been set, although Mr. Schmidt indicated assistance will be at least equal to that offered in 1981-82. Last year assistance for forage movement was 14 cents per ton-mile for hay or straw, six cents per ton-mile for silage and nine cents per ton-mile for cubed or pelleted roughage. Assistance will not be paid for the first 25 miles that feed is hauled.

The program is retroactive to June 15, 1982 and will end on March 31, 1983. Applications will be subject to on-farm inspections. Farmers will be required to produce bills and feed invoices. Farmers may also use their own trucks to transport feed.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Continuation of the Vegetable and Potato Storage Program and Sheep Producers' Incentive Program until June 30, 1983 has been announced by J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation.

The assistance available under the Vegetable and Potato Storage Program has been substantially increased effective July 1, 1982. The maximum loan eligible for incentive under the program has increased by approximately 33 per cent to $100,000. As a result, vegetable and potato producers who take out the maximum $100,000 loan will be eligible for an incentive of $7,000 per year for five years for a total possible incentive of $35,000. It is felt that this increased amount eligible for incentive will more appropriately accommodate the cost of storage facilities required and that the increased incentive will improve the productivity and viability of the vegetable and potato industry in Alberta.

The Sheep Producers' Incentive Program is being continued with the maximum amount of loan eligible for incentive at $40,000. With incentives based on $70 per thousand dollars of loan eligible for incentive, a person who takes out the maximum $40,000 loan would be eligible for a $2,800 incentive per year for five years for a total of $14,000.

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ADC Incentive Programs (cont'd)

The incentive under both of these programs is designed to reduce the cost to vegetable and potato producers and sheep producers where borrowed capital is required in order to stimulate the further development of these industries. The funds must be obtained under the Alberta Farm Development Loan in order to be eligible, and the incentive paid cannot exceed the total amount of interest paid on these loans.

For further information on these programs and application forms contact your district agriculturist or your local Agricultural Development Corporation office.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMENDMENTS AFFECTING THE NOVEMBER 12 BUDGET PROPOSALS

What effect does the amended federal budget of June 28 have on the farming community?

Merle Good, agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture, has outlined those amendments that affect the November 12, 1981 budget proposals.

Major provisions such as the capital cost allowance (CCA) system and the loss of Income Averaging Annuity Contracts that affected the farming community were not altered. Two modifications were made, however, regarding the capital cost allowance (CCA) schedules and the capital gains reserve provision. Clarification of the rate allowed for the purchase of small tools was announced. Acquisition of tools costing under $200 will remain 100 per cent deductible in the year of purchase, rather than 50 per cent deductible over two years. All other depreciable assets, whether used or not in the year of purchase, will remain subject to one-half the normal rate.

Under the capital gains reserve provision, clarification of the method used in calculating the reserve was provided. It appears that a taxpayer will now receive a blended return of capital gains and the tax-free base value (e.g. valuation day value), the method used prior to November 12, 1981. However, the capital gains reserve must still disappear within a ten-year period for family farm transfers and within a five-year period for other capital sales.

The corporate distribution tax was levied on dividends distributed by small business corporations. The tax which had been set to come into effect during this tax year will not apply until January 1, 1983.

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Amendments Affecting The November 12 Budget Proposals (cont'd)

Life insurance policy holders will not be taxed for interest income that they have not received, as long as their policies provide significant amount of insurance protection relative to the savings component of the policy.

Clarification of any amendments to the Income Tax Act can be obtained from Merle Good, Agricultural Economist, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, Phone:556-8421.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED JUNE 28 TO THE INCOME TAX ACT

Could you be benefitting from one of the rebate assistance programs offered in the amended federal budget of June 28?

Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch explains the June 28 budget amendments and how they affect the farming community.

The Six Per Cent Solution

For the 1983 and 1984 taxation years, the indexing adjustment for personal exemptions and tax brackets will be limited to six and five per cent respectively. In addition, Old Age Security (OAS) and Family Allowance programs are subject to the same restrictions. Full indexing will resume on January 1, 1985. The Child Tax Credit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement will be subject to full indexing. The net effect of this change will be an increase in taxes to an average taxpayer of $130 in 1983 and 1984.

Although the six per cent solution appears not to directly affect most farm businesses, the opposite is perhaps true for egg, poultry and milk producers. In his budget speech federal finance minister MacEachen announced that all federal agencies regulating prices for public transportation, communications and foodstuffs must adhere to the six per cent guidelines.

Small Business Investment Grant

A grant, up to four percentage points, is being made available to reduce interest costs on borrowings for two years by small businesses in order to finance new investment, research and development. Eligibility for the benefits of the temporary assistance program will be similar to the Small Business Development Bond tax program announced last year.

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Amendments Introduced June 28 To The Income Tax Act (cont'd)

Loans will qualify for the new assistance program if they are used for the following purposes:

- Financing purchases after June 28, 1982 and before March 31, 1983 of new depreciable property to be used in an active business in Canada.
- Financing expenditures on scientific research after June 28, 1982 and before March 31, 1983.

Loans to finance purchases of used equipment, land, automobiles or property for lease will not qualify.

Both small business corporations and unincorporated enterprises that carry on an active business can qualify. Basically the federal government will pay four percentage points of interest on the outstanding loan on behalf of the borrower to the financial institution for two years after the loan is issued.

The total amount of eligible loans will be limited to $500,000 and to qualify loans must be for at least $10,000.

The four per cent grant will be reduced if any other assistance plus the rebate reduces the interest rate on the loan to less than 12 per cent.

Financial Assistance to Farmers

A new assistance program for farmers is being delivered through the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC).

Over the next two years, $200 million will be made available through FCC. The loans will be made at the regular FCC rate (currently 16.5 per cent) but a rebate of four per cent will be provided for the first two years of the program. This program is in addition to the one of last November under which FCC will spend $50 million over two and one-half years for a five percentage point subsidy on loans to farmers in financial difficulty.

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Amendments Introduced June 28 To The Income Tax Act (cont'd)

Lending under the program is to commence immediately. Loans to farmers will be available provided that the following criteria are met:

- Only farmers in financial distress will qualify. A person in financial distress is defined as one who requires the loan and associated interest rebate to survive in the short run, but who in the long run can be expected to generate sufficient income to meet commitments.
- Farmers able to obtain financing under the Small Business Bond program will not normally be considered.
- Loans will be normally for debt consolidation but may in certain situations have a portion of the loan used for investment purposes (e.g. the completion of a farm building) necessary to ensure final recovery.
- Farmers will be required to submit a recovery plan acceptable to FCC. The FCC customary lending arrangement will apply — a maximum of $300,000 for individuals and $500,000 for partnerships.

Mr. Good concludes that your immediate course of action to follow is to determine if you qualify for any of the rebate assistance programs in the amended federal budget of June 28.

If you require more information on any of the amendments to the Income Tax Act, please contact Merle Good, Agricultural Economist, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, Phone: 556-8421.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TAXATION OF PERSONAL INVESTMENT INCOME

Of great interest to the members of the farming community will be the federal government's proposed changes to the taxation of personal investment income.

According to Merle Good, an agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture, a set of innovative proposals that could lower tax on interest income and capital gains on common shares of Canadian public corporations was introduced as a discussion paper..

The paper sets out a scheme that could exempt from tax the inflation component of interest received from certain term deposits and inflationary capital gains on certain shares. What does this all mean for farmers?

It means that depositors would be taxed only on the interest received over the present inflation rate. For example, $10,000 earning 17 per cent interest, and assuming an 11 per cent inflation rate would attract a tax liability of only six per cent of the interest received. Instead of receiving $1,700 of taxable interest (ignoring the $1,000 interest exemption), only $600 of taxable interest would be received. Assuming a 30 per cent marginal tax bracket, your after tax return would rise to 15.2 per cent from 11.9 per cent.

	Existing Legislation		Proposed Legislation	
Deposit	$10,000		$10,000	
Interest Received	1,700		1,700	
Taxable Interest	1,700		600	
Tax Payable (30%)	510		180	
Net Interest Received	1,190		1,520	
After Tax Return	1,190	= 11.9%	1,520	= 15.2%
	10,000		10,000	
Return over Inflation Rate		0.9%		4.2%

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Proposed Changes To The Taxation Of Personal Investment Income (cont'd)

Farmers who have retired and invested substantial sums of money will benefit greatly from these proposals. Many are paying 50 per cent of every interest dollar received to the government. Therefore, they are actually netting only one-half the quoted rate, which is usually below the present 11 per cent inflation rate. In effect, they are receiving a negative return on their funds.

On the other side of the coin, states Mr. Good, funds deposited in these special trust accounts will be available for loans to priority borrowers such as buyers of new homes or borrowings by small businesses, farmers and fishermen for new depreciable property.

The effect on borrowers would be a loan with real interest rates, based on the real return to the depositor and a margin charged by the lender. The interest element reflecting inflation would be levied and be non-deductible by the borrower in order to correspond to the non-taxable inflation interest received by the depositor. Using a new example, assume a farmer borrows $100,000 under a conventional loan and the same $100,000 under the new proposal.

	Borrower	
Conventional Loan	Tax bracket 0%	Tax bracket 25%
Amount of loan	$100,000	$100,000
Interest charged	19%	19%
Tax saving on interest deductible	0%	4.75%
After-tax cost of borrowed funds	19%	14.25%
New Proposal		
Amount of loan	$100,000	$100,000
Interest charge.		
Compensation for inflation	10%	10%
Real interest	5%	5%
Interest charge deductible for tax purposes	5%	5%
Tax saving on interest deductibility	0%	1.25%
After-tax cost of borrowed funds	15%	13.75%
Difference in after tax costs	- 4.0%	- 0.50%

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Proposed Changes To The Taxation Of Personal Investment Income (cont'd)

As the table indicates, borrowers that benefit the most from the introduction of this new scheme are those businesses at the lower end of the tax bracket and home owners who cannot deduct interest paid on home mortgages.

Beginning or expanding farmers not faced with a large tax bill will save a few percentage points on their loans and thereby increase their cash position. As well, it is likely that depositors to this special fund will not require the same gross interest return as they would under full taxation, thus allowing a few points of lower interest rates.

In order to avoid uncertainties, the Minister of Finance indicated that any eventual legislation setting out effective dates on qualified investments would cover purchases made after June 28, 1982.

Capital Gains in Common Shares

The non-taxation of inflationary capital gains on public common stock does not directly relate to farm businesses but rather all investors. Therefore, an explanation of this proposal and/or clarification on any other proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act can be obtained from Merle Good, Agricultural Economist, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, Phone: 556-8421.

August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVALUATION OF NATURAL SERVICE FERTILITY OF BULLS IN PASTURE

In the economics of raising beef cattle reproduction is the most important trait with the impact of a bull on reproductive performance of the herd being much greater than that of a cow.

A recent study by M. Makarechian and R.T. Berg of the University of Alberta's department of animal science assessed the effects of semen quality and quantity, libido score, scrotal circumference and testicular consistency on natural service fertility of bulls in pasture mating. The goal was to be able to identify bulls which are highly efficient as far as reproduction is concerned.

Thirty-three bulls which were selected for breeding at the University of Alberta ranch at Kinsella were measured for testicular size and consistency, semen quality and quantity, and libido (sex drive). Testicular size was estimated by measuring the scrotal circumference, and its consistency was determined by a tonometer. Semen was collected by electro-ejaculation and was evaluated as to its volume, concentration, motility and structure of sperm cells. The bulls were exposed to tranquilized restrained dry cows for 10 minutes (six bulls with three cows) in a pen and based on their sexual activities (interests, mounts and services) they were scored for libido.

The breeding period was 60 days and the bulls were used in single and multiple sire groups. The progeny of the bulls in multiple sire groups were identified by blood-typing.

The earliness of calving is considered a desirable trait which is influenced by bull fertility. The average calving date of each sire's mate, the ratio of number of progeny/number of cows exposed to a bull, and the combination of the two measurements were used as measures of fertility of the bulls.

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Evaluation Of Natural Service Fertility Of Bulls In Pasture (cont'd)

The results of the testing brought forth the following information regarding the identification of bulls which are efficient for reproduction.

Bulls having bigger testicles tended to breed more cows and their calves were born earlier compared to the bulls with smaller testes. In terms of the combined measures of fertility and calving date, approximately one-third of the difference was attributable to variations in the scrotal circumference.

The measures of semen quality and quantity and sex drive did not have a significant influence on fertility and calving date. It must be noted that most of the bulls were yearlings with no previous experience in breeding and semen production. For this reason and because of the relatively small number of bulls used in this study, the results should be considered as tentative. With the co-operation of Alberta Agriculture and the Beefbooster Cattle Company, Cochrane, further experiments on bull fertility are underway. It is hoped that these will provide more conclusive results.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL GROWTH POTENTIAL FOR THE WEST

The economic benefits to the prairie grain sector from expanding transport capacity are substantial. The value of the additional rail capacity would far outweigh the costs of higher transportation rates if that capacity permits anywhere near an increase of 10 million tonnes moved to export positions.

The Canadian Wheat Board has set an export target of 36 million tonnes by 1990, compared with 26 million tonnes exported in 1981/82. Changes in Canadian grain exports have little impact on world grain prices because of their small portion of the trade.

A change in freight rates will result in different percentage changes in farm gate prices since the major Crow grains are not priced equally (wheat being more valuable than barley and oats). More production of the higher valued Crow grains such as wheat and rapeseed would be expected if crop rotation, summerfallow and returns per acre allow this. Moreover, the total acreage seeded to Crow grains can also be expected to fall slightly. There will be a greater trend towards crop diversification.

Reduced farm gate prices of Crow grains following an increase in statutory freight rates will mean lower input for the western livestock and agricultural processing industries including oilseed crushing, feed milling and meat packing. This will increase their processing margins which will lead to an increased output from these sectors relative to maintaining the status quo or Crow rates.

Medium and long term forecasts of agricultural markets indicate significant improvements from the current weak market situation. There are two broad sources of demand: the regional food and processor demand, and the export demand from population centres elsewhere in Canada and the rest of the world.

- (cont'd) -

Agricultural Growth Potential For The West (cont'd)

The regional growth patterns indicate a faster rate of population growth and income growth in the prairie region than for Canada as a whole. This will lead to a growth in demand for processed food commodities with a lesser growth in demand for staple products.

Over the medium term there will be a fast rate of growth in the export demand for agricultural commodities from western Canada. World trade in wheat, coarse grains and oilseeds have continued to outstrip forecasts for the last ten years.

Western Canada will continue to have a strong competitive advantage in grain and oilseed production in the future due to a commitment to research, new management practices and the removal of delivery constraints. Technology is now available which would allow Prairie producers to increase production of grain and oilseeds by over 50 per cent of current levels through the utilization of available moisture and improved varieties, and the more optimal use of fertilizers and herbicides as well as other new technologies.

For further information contact Norm Thomson, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORM YOUR OWN BABYSITTING NETWORK

In this time of continuing inflation, we are all searching for ways to save money. The home economics branch of Alberta Agriculture advises parents of young children to "Form Your Own Babysitting Network". This is also the title of a publication which explains the advantages of a network, the operation of one successful network and the need for early agreement on rules.

The booklet also suggests books to read for inspiration on keeping children busy and happy. Finally, it provides a record book to help get a network started.

To secure copies of this publication (Homedex 1921-22) contact your district home economist or write to the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

"Greenhouses and Protected Cropping" will be the main feature at the 20th annual Alberta Horticultural Research Center field day on August 27. Special displays on commercial greenhouse production, operation of hobby greenhouses and the use of hotcaps, tunnels and mulches will be set up, as well as a display of hydroponics and trickle irrigation for hobby greenhouses.

Other highlights include exhibits and displays featuring fruits, vegetables, special crops and beekeeping. Woody ornamentals and herb and spice varieties will also be on display.

In addition to the exhibits, research plot tours of vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and special crops provide visitors the opportunity to see research projects being conducted.

Specialists in the plant pest clinic will be available to diagnose and discuss plant disease, insect and weed problems. Demonstrations of flower arranging and pruning will provide practical information on these topics.

The field day is designed to provide up-to-date information to all horticultural enthusiasts, and everyone is invited. People or groups requiring special attention may visit the centre any day throughout the summer season.

Fresh corn-on-the cob and refreshments will be served, however, visitors staying all day should bring a picnic lunch. Visitors must be prepared to do a limited amount of walking while visiting displays and going to and from parking and picnic areas.

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center is located 5 km east of Brooks on Highway No.1, and the field day will start at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

For further details on the program telephone 362-3391 in Brooks.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST APPOINTED

J. Wilson Loree, head, farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Dan Hilsenteger to the position of agricultural economist responsible for developing materials in the area of farm tax planning, estate planning and business arrangements.

Mr. Hilsenteger graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. in agricultural economics, specializing in farm finance and management. Since then he has held positions as a credit advisor with the Farm Credit Corporation, Calgary and landman for an oil company.

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August 2, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY PROCESSING BRANCH HEAD APPOINTED

Fred Hutchings, director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has appointed Ken Waldon to the position of branch head, dairy processing.

Mr. Waldon received his early schooling in Brandon and Portage La Prairie. The University of Manitoba granted him a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in dairy science.

Mr. Waldon has spent many years with Agriculture Canada, his most recent position being industry liaison officer. In this capacity he was the primary contact between Agriculture Canada and the processing, wholesaling, retailing and consumer aspects of the Ontario agriculture food sector. Other positions with Agriculture Canada gave him experience in the grading and inspection of dairy products, development and implementation of a manufacturing plant inspection program and administration of acts and regulations. He was also involved in co-ordinating the implementation of departmental strategies, policies, programs and services.

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AGRI-NEWS

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SEP 20 1982

August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC FIRST QUARTER LENDING RESULTS

Mr. J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the corporation's lending results for the first quarter ending June 30, 1982.

During this period, 413 direct farm loans were approved, totalling $59 million. This compares with 508 loans for $74 million for the same period last year. Of this year's total, 316 loans amounting to $47 million were made to beginning farmers, compared with 437 loans representing $66 million in the first quarter last year.

Guaranteed farm loans totalled 1682 for $25.6 million in the first quarter, compared with 1696 loans and $22 million for the same period the previous year.

Agribusiness lending for the quarter amounted to nine direct loans for $2.4 million, and seven guaranteed loans for $24.1 million for a total of $26.5 million. This compares with $4 million in the same period of 1981-82.

Mr. Hanna said that the volume of direct farm loans was down from last year because of the generally depressed economic conditions and the uncertain outlook for some types of farming operations. In particular, individuals without access to family assistance and supplementary income appear to be adopting a "wait and see" attitude. This trend is likely to continue as long as economic circumstances remain uncertain. Mr. Hanna indicated, however, that the long term prospects for agriculture in the province suggest that ADC will continue to be a major source of financing for Alberta farmers.

An increasing number of farmers appear to be utilizing ADC's guarantee for purposes of obtaining operating capital from conventional lending sources.

ADC's lending operations continue to be funded by the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Prices for early potatoes are satisfactory, but price prospects for the bulk of the crop will be determined by crop development and weather between now and harvest.

David Walker, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, states that North American 1981 fall potato production recovered enough to relieve the tight supply situation that had prevailed during the 1980 crop year. Consequently, prices softened. In Alberta, however, output declined because of poorer yields and as a result prices in Alberta held much better than they did elsewhere, and the crop was moved without any major problems.

The Alberta 1982 potato acreage is estimated at 18,046 acres, about 1,700 acres more than in 1981. The crop is reported to look healthy but a little late with respect to tuber development. This is the result of a late spring and, for the Edmonton area, a very dry June.

The increased acreages of the three major northwestern states in the U.S. are not expected to affect prices adversely. As a result of a cool spring and relatively cool summer, the crop is late and prospects are for lower yields. Harvesting has just started and prices are holding .

Mr. Walker concludes that only if crop development is exceptionally favorable and weather conditions ideal between now and harvest are supplies likely to be burdensome.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR BEET SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Alberta sugar beet growers will be affected by depressed world sugar market prices which are a result of a build-up in world supplies and the prospect of carry-over stocks of over 31 million tonnes this year.

According to David Walker of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, no improvement in sugar prices is expected in the foreseeable future unless a dramatic decrease in production occurs. At present, world production appears relatively favorable.

Prospects for significant increases in consumption are poor as a result of adverse economic conditions and the increasing use of fructose corn syrup and artificial sweetners by the industrial sector.

Excellent 1981 yields in Alberta partially offset the impact of lower prices for sugar beets. If the 1981 sugar beet crop is designated by the federal government for stabilization, with conventional calculation of support levels, substantial payments are likely. Announcement of any stabilization payment is unlikely to be made until late fall.

In Alberta, nine per cent fewer sugar beet acres were contracted for this year. The potential for higher yields has increased faster than consumption. Yields, however, are only expected to be about average.

Mr. Walker concludes that price prospects will remain gloomy with depressed demand conditions and generally favorable world production prospects.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEASING RATES FOR 1982

Land rental charges have increased over the past year. Despite high interest rates, inflated input costs and moderate crop prospects, renters are still prepared to pay top dollar for good quality land.

According to Cheryl Porteous of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, there is a strong demand for rented land. This indicates that farmers will now rent additional land before buying high valued land at current high interest rates. Renting land in these circumstances represents a more flexible option which allows farmers to earn income from land without suffering high investment costs.

The following table shows the cost per acre of rented land for 1981 and 1982.

Cash Rent – Crop Land

	1981	1982	Most common for 1982
North	$10-35	$15-55	$25-30
Central	$30-35	$20-72	$25-35
South	$25-40	$25-65	$50-60
Irrigated	$75-120	$65-90	

The range in rental charges as indicated in the above table may be accounted for by:

1. Variation in the quality of land involved with the agreements.
2. Transactions at arm's length usually have lower rental payments.
3. The fixed rate of term leases may be above or below the current cash rent depending on how old the lease is.
4. Rental rates offered to dependable, established tenants are often lower.

- (cont'd) -

Leasing Rates For 1982 (cont'd)

Thirty-nine per cent of land rented in Alberta is on a cash rent basis, says Ms. Porteous. The other 61 per cent is rented on crop-share basis. These figures reveal an upward trend in crop-share agreements, offset by a reduction in cash rent situations. Crop-share agreements involve a sharing of risk between landlord and tenant, while cash rent leases leave all risk with the tenant.

Of the renters with crop-share arrangements, 67 per cent have one-third/two-thirds agreements, 11 per cent have a 50-50 split agreement. The remainder of the agreements contain various combinations of expenses and profits split between the landlord and tenant.

This information is compiled annually by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Unifarm cost monitoring system. For further information contact your district agriculturist or the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORN DAYS AT FARMERS' MARKETS

Keep your eyes open for Corn Day at your local farmers' market.

Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board are co-operating on a program to market corn through the local farmers' markets.

According to Russel Marfleet, secretary-manager of the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board, there has been some difficulty in marketing corn. This program is attempting to open up a new avenue for selling corn.

During 1982, the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board is working to encourage growers to market their production through the established farmers' markets. Growers are being contacted to see which ones are interested in this program.

William Bayda, commodity officer with Alberta Agriculture, is determining from each market their interest in having a Corn Day in their locality.

Currently, there are 100 farmers' markets operating in Alberta, with each market offering a variety of products. Seasonal vegetables and fruits are available, as well as items such as mushrooms, eggs, honey, home baking, houseplants and handmade crafts.

If enough growers are encouraged to supply the farmers' markets with Alberta corn a better product will reach the consumer and more confidence will develop in this form of marketing.

Mr. Marfleet concludes, "If we get the co-operation of the growers and the markets there will be a benefit to both the consumer and the grower."

For more information on this program contact William Bayda, Marketing Services Division, 9th Floor, Harley Court, 10045-111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1K4, Phone: 427-2107.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FULL-FAT CANOLA IN MASH AND CRUMBLED RATIONS FOR BROILERS

Recent experiments at the Provincial Poultry Plant, Oliver, have further shown that rolled canola seed is a suitable source of energy and protein in broiler chick rations.

Results from two experiments to assess the performance of broiler chicks raised on rations containing 1 to 10 per cent rolled raw full-fat canola fed either as mash or crumbles are now available.

According to Mario Rebolledo of Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch, previous experiments conducted at the Provincial Poultry Plant, Oliver, indicated that as much as 10 per cent rolled full-fat canola seed can be included in starter and finisher rations for broilers without affecting the rate of growth, efficiency of feed conversion or mortality. In those experiments the rations were fed in the form of crumbles in order to prevent the birds from rejecting or selecting canola or any of the components of the rations.

Since pelleting and crumbling of the feed represent an additional cost that might be avoided, the last two experiments used full-fat canola fed either as mash or crumble.

In each experiment 4,000 day-old Hubbard broiler chicks were randomly divided into eight groups of 500 chicks each, states Mr. Rebolledo.

Rations were fed in the form of either mash or crumbles. Duplicate groups of chicks were placed on each of the ration treatments. Starter rations were fed until the birds were 28 days old, then finisher rations were fed until the end of the experiments at 47 days. At the end of the experiments 80 males and 80 females per group were randomly selected and weighed.

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Full-Fat Canola In Mash And Crumbled Rations For Broilers (cont'd)

As was observed in previous experiments, the performance of the birds fed the crumbled rations containing either 0 or 10 per cent full-fat canola was quite similar. Similarly, the performance of the birds on the mash rations containing 0 or 10 per cent full-fat canola was also quite similar.

The results obtained showed that rate of growth of the broilers fed rations with or without the inclusion of full-fat canola seed was increased by 6 to 11 per cent when the feed was fed as crumbles as compared to mash.

Mr. Rebolledo concludes that as much as 10 per cent rolled canola seed may be used as a suitable source of energy and protein in starter and finishing rations for broiler chickens.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 PROVINCIAL 4-H BEEF HEIFER SHOW AND TEAM JUDGING CONTEST

The sixth annual provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show and Team Judging Contest was held July 19th and 20th in Bashaw with 38 4-H beef clubs from throughout Alberta taking part.

The show and judging contest provide an opportunity for 4-H beef club members involved in the breeding project to broaden their knowledge, show their project animals, and display their judging, grooming and showmanship skills.

Approximately 80 4-H members were involved in this year's team judging contest. Emerging as top individuals in the contest, and qualifying as members of the western provinces' 4-H judging team were Deanne Groeneveld of the Gladys 4-H beef club and Curtis Webber of the Spruce Grove 4-H beef club. The top overall team was the Spruce Grove club, followed closely by the Gladys club.

Rick Lewis, president of the Bashaw agricultural society, officially opened the 1982 show at 1:00 p.m., July 19. Words of welcome were extended by Shelley Murdoch, 1982 premier's award winner.

A colorful parade of clubs, with champion and reserve champions declared in junior, intermediate, and senior sections was followed by showmanship classes. Dave Longshore of Byemoor acted as showmanship judge, and also assisted Allan Zwiersike of Holden, and Lori Miller of Bashaw in judging 26 teams taking part in a team grooming contest. Show participants concluded the first day with a barbecue and dance sponsored by the Bashaw agricultural society.

On the second day of competition, 90 breeding animals were exhibited in nine divisions, with breed classes for purebred, recorded, and crossbred stock in yearling, two-year old and three-year old classes.

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1982 Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show And Team Judging Contest (cont'd)

Senior conformation judges included Lynn Combest from Erskine, Gotthold Reich from Bashaw, and Rob Matthews from Calgary. Michelle Weitzel, a member of the Spruce Grove 4-H beef club and last year's judging competition winner, assisted as junior conformation judge.

For the second consecutive year, the St. Paul multi club garnered top honors in the herdsmanship competition which is based on neatness and cleanliness of stall areas, general conduct, and attentiveness to show animals.

Major show sponsors, as in previous years, were the Bashaw agricultural society and the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVING AND USING SAVORY HERBS

Now is the time to start using and preserving savory herbs. Fresh herbs are at their peak in quality from August to September, when they are green and have a delicate flavor.

Savory herbs refer to the fresh or dried leaves of aromatic plants which are used to season such items as meat, poultry, eggs, vegetables, salads, sauces, soups and stuffings.

Fresh herbs may be available from your own garden or you may be able to purchase them at local food markets. Fresh herbs will keep about three weeks if you wash and drain them and refrigerate in plastic bags or covered containers.

For longer storage, fresh herbs should be frozen or dried.

In order to prepare herbs for freezing, first wash, drain and chop. Then, spread on a tray and freeze. When frozen, pack the herbs in freezer containers and store in the freezer for up to one year.

Drying is also an effective method for preserving herbs. For drying herbs, choose tops and perfect leaves. Wash, drain and spread the herbs on a cheesecloth on a rack. Cover with cheesecloth and allow to dry two to three days in a dry, warm place where there is good air circulation. Leaves will usually keep their color better if they are dried in the dark. Always dry herbs thoroughly before storing them, so that they will keep.

A second method used for drying herbs is in an open oven at about 120° C. This is a quick method but the heat must be carefully controlled to avoid evaporating the oils and discoloring the leaves.

Pack the dried herbs in dark glass containers with tight screw caps, or in airtight tin cans, and store them in a dry place away from direct light.

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Preserving And Using Savory Herbs (cont'd)

Tips on using herbs:

- use about one-third the amount of dried herb as you would fresh herb.
- before adding dried herbs to a mixture, crush them to release flavor.
- do not use herbs in several dishes at the same meal. Use them for accent and variety only.
- savory herbs are used to enhance the flavor of a dish, not to disguise it.

A federal publication entitled "Using Savory Herbs" (Agdex 1131-62) provides hints on buying, using and storing herbs. The publication can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOOD PRESERVATIVES FOR HOME AND HORTICULTURAL USE

A new publication has been prepared by Alberta Agriculture regarding the safe use of preservative-treated wood for the storage of horticultural produce and the growing of plants.

Four types of fungi attack wood, especially wood that is used under high humidity conditions such as in greenhouses or produce storages, and wood that is in contact with soils. Protection is generally provided through the use of chemical treatments.

Both oil-based preservatives and water-based preservatives are covered in this publication along with recommended uses and precautions to be taken with each. Methods for applying preservatives may vary depending on the wood and the preservative selected.

Preservative treated wood should be used cautiously in both home and horticultural situations. Creosote and pentachlorophenol treated woods should not be used in vegetable storages or in greenhouses. Direct contact should be avoided between food products or living plant material and treated wood.

Copies of "Wood Preservatives for Home and Horticultural Use"(Agdex 200-23-1) are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP IMPROVEMENT FIELD DAY

A crop improvement field day is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture in conjunction with Olds College and the Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association at Olds College on Wednesday, August 11 at 1:30 p.m.

A comparison of present and future varieties in cereal and oilseed variety test plots will be presented by Alberta Agriculture's Dr. Jim Helm.

Ray Gesshe of Olds College will speak on forage varietal plots – mixed and pure stands.

Other topics include leaf cutter bees and alfalfa seed production, and grazing spring seeded fall rye and winter wheat.

Transportation will be provided to the field plots. All those attending the field day are asked to gather directly south of the college residence in parking lots three and five at 1:15 p.m.

Bring a neighbor and take in the crop improvement field day!

For more information contact Bruce Martin, Olds College, Continuing Education Division, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, Telephone: (403) 556-8281.

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August 9, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4TH ANNUAL SPECIAL CROPS -- PULSE GROWERS TOUR

A specialty crops tour in the Camrose area will be hosted by Alberta Agriculture and the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta on August 11.

Included in the tour are a variety of crops such as sunflowers, buckwheat, faba beans, field peas, canary seed and more. Specialists and company representatives will be on hand to provide advice on production and marketing topics.

The tour will assemble at the Camrose County shop at 10:00 a.m. and return at 3:30 p.m. The cost, which covers transportation and a barbecue, will be $5.00 for all Pulse Growers Association members and $10.00 for non-members.

Please pre-register by Tuesday, August 10 by contacting Alberta Agriculture in Camrose, Telephone: 672-4411.

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ne: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERTHA ARMYWORM SITUATION, 1982

The results of a Bertha armyworm survey conducted by Helen Liu and field staff of the Alberta Environmental Centre are now available.

Helen Liu, field crops entomologist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that this year, damage to canola by the Bertha armyworm is expected to occur in the Peace River region and north of Edmonton. High numbers of larvae are being found near Wanham, and all canola growers in the Peace River region are advised to examine their fields before mid-August. Numbers are also high near Barrhead and Edmonton. The central and northeastern regions of Alberta are, in general, free of the insects, although fields in the Stettler and Three Hills areas should be examined in mid-August for the presence of armyworms.

Although high populations of armyworms in southern Alberta are not as widespread as in 1981, canola in the counties of Willow Creek, Vulcan, Lethbridge, and the Municipal District of Cardston, ought to be checked in mid-August. It is expected that late-seeded or re-seeded canola will be most susceptible to injury, whereas early-harvested crops will escape the major impact of armyworm feeding.

To determine whether or not chemical control of Bertha armyworm is needed, Ms. Liu advises a grower to examine at least 5 separate areas, 1 square metre each, in a field. This can be accomplished by beating the foliage in the 1 square metre area, which should be located 10 to 20 paces into the crop, and counting the larvae that drop off the plants.

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Bertha Armyworm Situation, 1982 (cont'd)

A more effective, although more time consuming, method is to cut off the plants in the 1 square metre area at ground level, shake the plants over the remaining space, and count the armyworms that fall onto the ground. An average of 15 or more Bertha armyworms per square metre will justify treatment.

For more information contact Helen J. Liu, Field Crops Entomologist, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO, Phone: 632-6639.

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INSECTS AND MITES IN FARM STORED GRAIN

As harvest season approaches, the problem of grain beetles in stored grain arises. In order to avoid widespread infestations, preventive measures should be taken now.

This advice comes from Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who says that beetle infestations were higher than normal in Alberta last fall and prevention should be stressed.

Preventive Measures

The following measures can help prevent grain beetle infestation.

- Clean-up and burn or bury any grain spilled when bins are filled or emptied. Spillage is an excellent breeding site for grain insects.
- To prevent insects from breeding, destroy grain residues that remain after grain has been removed from piles or temporary storages.
- Initiate a granary clean-up program that includes:
  - repairs and weatherproofing
  - cleaning and burning or burying sweepings to prevent insect breeding.
  - thoroughly spraying the granary with a mixture of 60 mL (½ pt) malathion 50 per cent EC in 4 L (1 gal) water. Apply the mixture at a rate of 5 L/100 m^2 (1 gal/1,000 sq ft)or to the point of run-off.
- Frequently examine stored grain for signs of crusting or spoiling and break any crusted areas.
- Place metal rods in grain bulk and inspect every three to four weeks for signs of heating.
- Avoid storing this year's grain with grain left over from the previous year.

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Prevention And Control Of Insects And Mites In Farm Stored Grain (cont'd)

A farmer who has a consistent problem with grain beetles should consider applying malathion grain protector at harvest in order to provide season-long protection against grain beetles.

Control Measures

Mr. Dolinski says that in order to control fungus feeding pests, such as fungus beetles, grain mites and psocids, improve storage conditions by:

- removing crusted areas and hot spots
- burning or burying discarded grain
- drying grain if necessary.

Chemical control of fungus feeding pests is not necessary since they cannot survive in sound, dry grain.

For effective chemical control of grain feeding pests make sure the grain is in good storage condition. Follow the three recommendations detailed for fungus feeding pest control. Then, fumigate or apply a grain protectant. Caution: Fumigants are extremely poisonous and should be applied with great care.

Solid Fumigants: Solid fumigants contain phosphine gas and are available under the trade names Gastoxin and Phostoxin. Both tablets and pellets have a wax coating that prevents the release of the fumigant for a period of four hours after the container is opened.

Application: 180 tablets or 300 pellets per 35 m^3 (1000 bu). Probe the tablets or pellets into the grain bulk using a one-inch pipe or incorporate as the grain is augered into

- (cont'd) -

Prevention And Control Of Insects And Mites In Farm Stored Grain (cont'd)

the bin. Seal the bin thoroughly and fumigate for the following periods:

Grain Temperature	Fumigation Period
4° C – 12° C	10 days
12° C – 15° C	5 days
16° C – 20° C	4 days

Caution: Use solid fumigants only when the grain temperature is above 4° C.

Follow these safety recommendations when using fumigants:

- lock and nail doors and other entries after application
- post warning signs
- wear gloves and have a full face respirator with an approved cannister available
- work in pairs and follow recommendations and warnings detailed on the container label
- ventilate bins to reduce hazard to grain handlers.

Control by Cold Temperatures: Rusty grain beetles and other stored grain insects can be killed by periods of cold temperatures as follows:

Grain Temperature	Time Required to Kill Insects
- 5 °C	6 weeks
- 10 °C	4 weeks
- 15 °C	2 weeks

Grain temperatures can be lowered by aeration or by moving grain several times during cold weather.

Mr. Dolinski stresses that prevention measures should be taken immediately before control measures are needed.

August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEPTOSPIROSIS SITUATION IN ALBERTA

Although there have been reports that the incidence of leptospirosis in cattle and swine may be increasing in Alberta, provincial diagnostic laboratory records show that its prevalence is still very low.

According to the head of the Alberta Animal Health Division's epidemiology section, Dr. M.W. Stone, four cases of leptospirosis were diagnosed in cattle last year and one case was diagnosed in swine. However, he says that since it is very doubtful that the above five cases give a true picture of the disease in the province, anyone who suspects leptospirosis should consult his local veterinarian who will tell him whether control measures are necessary.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can affect most types of animals and human beings. It has a world-wide distribution and is most frequently seen in cattle and swine. The infection usually gains access to a herd through a domestic carrier or through an infected wild animal.

Since the organism that causes leptospirosis often inhabits the kidneys of an infected animal, urine is a frequent source of the infection. However, the disease can also be spread by aborted fetuses, afterbirth and uterine discharge and even by the semen of an infected bull. The organism is very sensitive to a dry atmosphere and to ultraviolet light, but it can survive in a moist, warm atmosphere for as long as six months.

Dr. Stone says that leptospirosis usually causes a rise in temperature, loss of appetite and depression in mature cattle and that their urine is frequently red in color. This is caused by a breakdown of the red cells. Jaundice is another fairly common symptom. In dairy cattle, leptospirosis causes a serious drop in milk production and the milk tends to be yellowish-orange and may contain blood clots. In calves jaundice, blood-colored urine, anae-

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Leptospirosis Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

mia and a high temperature are frequent symptoms. The death rate in mature cattle is usually low, but it can be quite high in calves.

Usually the only manifestations of leptospirosis in swine are abortions during the last month of pregnancy and litters of very weak or dead piglets that are born at or near full term.

Dr. Stone also says that it is possible for an abortion "epidemic" to occur if a group of pregnant cows are exposed to the infection at the same time, and that the abortions tend to occur during the last three months of pregnancy.

Special laboratory techniques are required to diagnose leptospirosis and streptomycin is the best drug to use for treatment, according to Dr. Stone. And the earlier the drug is administered the more likelihood of success. Vaccination is usually the recommended method of control.

To avoid leptospirosis, Dr. Stone recommends avoiding contact between domestic animals and wild animals as much as possible and either draining or fencing-off low-lying swampy areas. And any building that has contained an infected animal should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The use of solid pen partitions in a hog barn and a pit rather than a manure alley will help to prevent the spread from one pen to another of any infection that may have got started in a swine herd.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICKEN MEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Relatively little upward price movement at all levels of the poultry industry over the first half of the year has severely reduced profit margins and Terry Appleby of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch expects that the industry may advance prices later in the year.

Prices are currently 111.5 cents per kg, unchanged from a year ago but two cents per kg lower than in March.

During the second quarter of 1982, broiler marketings were marginally lower than last year and coupled with a firm strengthening in the demand for chicken meat, resulted in a more favorable supply/demand position for the Canadian chicken industry by mid year.

Mr. Appleby says, however, that July chicken stock levels continue to exceed year earlier levels by about 19 per cent and consumption during the remainder of the year will have to remain firm if the industry expects to reduce inventories before 1983.

Although growth in chicken consumption will probably moderate from the levels attained during the second quarter of the year because of price increases, it is still expected to average two per cent over the remainder of the year. As a result, Mr. Appleby does not expect year end stock levels to be burdensome.

In Alberta, chicken production during the remainder of the year is expected to about match the level of production attained during the first half of the year with increased broiler production expected to offset some decrease in roaster production.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EGG SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The current balanced supply/demand position of the Canadian egg industry is expected to continue for the remainder of the year and into the first quarter of 1983.

Terry Appleby, dairy and poultry economist with Alberta Agriculture, says that egg consumption over this time period, however, must exceed year earlier levels by about 4.3 per cent. This rate of growth is marginally lower than the rate of growth experienced in 1982 to date.

During the first half of 1982 there has been a continued strong demand for eggs at the retail level as a result of stable egg prices and higher prices for alternative protein sources. This situation is expected to continue into the fall with increased retail demand being offset by reduced institutional egg usage.

In Alberta, table egg sales during the first half of the year were 7.6 per cent higher than last year and outpaced the growth in local supplies. This resulted in a ten per cent increase in the movement of eggs into the province during this time period.

Mr. Appleby expects that continued firm retail demand and little growth in local production will place added pressure on wholesalers to move eggs into the province.

During 1982, about 26 per cent of total egg supplies are expected to be moved into the province while the movement of eggs out of the province is expected to be lower than last year.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

U.S. price levels will continue to exert an influence on Canadian fed cattle prices.

According to Gordon Herrington, livestock economist with Alberta Agriculture, U.S. prices for fed cattle should stabilize during the third quarter in the mid U.S. $60 range before increasing in the fourth quarter towards the $70 level, mainly because of tightening supplies of cattle.

Fed cattle prices advanced rapidly during the second quarter of 1982 but no similar increases were apparent for feeder cattle and cows.

Expectations for Canadian cattle prices for the third quarter are for A1/A2 steer prices at Calgary to be in the upper $70 range. Reduced supplies of heifers should also narrow discounts that have been prevailing.

Consumer demand factors will continue to influence beef prices. As a result of the economic conditions, consumers will continue to resist retail price increases, and even supply limitations are unlikely to raise the price of beef.

North American cattle slaughterings for the first half of 1982 were more than in the comparable 1981 period but average slaughter weights were down, resulting in lower total beef supply.

Beef supply potential for the last half of 1982 will be lower than comparable 1981 amounts which should sustain the higher fed cattle prices obtained in the second quarter of 1982 through to the end of the year.

Mr. Herrington concludes that dull consumer demand will limit prices advances on fed cattle and feeder cattle.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL GRANT ANNOUNCED FOR HOME BUYERS

The federal government could contribute $3,000 towards the purchase of your next home if you are a first time home buyer or in the market for a newly built home.

A two-part Canadian Homeownership Stimulation Plan was unveiled in the June 28 budget. Nancy Ferguson of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch outlines the criteria for receiving the contribution.

The program is intended for two groups of homebuyers: those who intend to purchase a previously unoccupied new home and those who are first time home buyers of an existing home.

There are no income level restraints, however, the home must be intended for immediate occupancy as your principal residence and each home buyer is allowed to receive one contribution only.

For those purchasing a newly built home, the home must be constructed (and previously not lived in), under construction or beginning construction before January 1, 1983. This means that the foundation and footings must be in place by that time. Builders who want to obtain proof that the unit was started prior to January 1, 1983 are required to get Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to carry out a certification inspection prior to this date. The close of sale must take place after June 28, 1982 and the signed offer to purchase must be dated no later than December 31, 1983.

Additional stipulations include the following. The purchaser must be able to provide a 10 per cent downpayment from his own resources. The $3,000 is

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Federal Grant Announced For Home Buyers (cont'd)

used to reduce the mortgage in addition to the downpayment. The mortgage must be insured either publicly or privately. The purchase price of the home must not exceed $100,000 except in Calgary or Edmonton where the limit is $150,000. Condominiums are eligible under the program.

Ms. Ferguson says the rules for first time home buyers are similar to those for purchasers of a newly built home. One exception is the date that the offer of purchase must be signed. First time home buyers must have their offer to purchase signed and dated no later than December 31, 1982. The close of sale must take place after June 28, 1982 which is the same as for purchasers of newly built homes.

Furthermore, a 10 per cent downpayment from the purchaser's own resources is required which will be used in addition to the grant to reduce the mortgage. The mortgage must be insured publicly or privately. The purchase price limits are also the same as for the newly built home buyer, $100,000 everywhere in Alberta except for Calgary and Edmonton where the limit is $150,000. Condominiums are only eligible in this case if they have not been converted from rental projects after June 29, 1982.

Further information and application forms for the Homeownership Stimulation Plan are available from your nearest Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation offices at the following numbers:

Edmonton	482-3431
Red Deer	343-6677
Calgary	265-6860
Lethbridge	328-5581

Information on other government assistance available to farm homeowners in Alberta is available in an Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 871). Copies can be obtained from Alberta

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Federal Grant Announced For Home Buyers (cont'd)

Agriculture, Farm Business Management Branch, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, Phone: 556-8421, or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 – 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CATTLE AGAIN TOP WINNERS AT U.K. SHOWS

Remittall Monarch, an Alberta bred polled Hereford, has won the "Bull of the Year" award in Britain for the second year in a row.

Last year Remittall Monarch a bull bred and raised by Lou and Jean Latimer of Olds, made history in Britain by capturing the Triple Crown. This year, prestigious winnings by this animal so far include the Supreme Champion at the Shropshire and West Midland Show, Champion bull at the Royal Highland, Supreme champion at the Royal Show, and Supreme Champion at the East of England Show. Remittall Monarch will be shown one more time this year at the National Polled Show in September where he has a good chance at the National Polled Award.

This is the first time that the same bull has won the Supreme Champion and Bull of the Year honors two years in a row. Both parents of Remittall Monarch were also bred by the Latimers of Olds, Alberta.

Alberta Angus cattle are also doing well in the United Kingdom. The Supreme Champion Angus bull at the Royal Show in England was a three-year-old Alberta bred bull. This bull was bred by an Alberta breeder, John Boake of Rocky Mountain House, and was exported to Britain about a year ago. Other Alberta Angus cattle which have been exported to the U.K. in recent years have won top honors as well.

These winnings are an indication of the increasing acceptance in the U.K. of our large growthy type Herefords and Angus. The Royal Show in England and the Royal Highland in Scotland attract cattle buyers and producers from all over the world, and and help considerably with our international sales.

The international marketing group of Alberta Agriculture assisted cattle

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producers to go to these shows and represent Alberta in the Canadian booth. The Alberta Agriculture international marketing group will continue to assist with worthwhile export-oriented activities that will lead to stronger export markets.

Alberta breeders are to be congratulated for their achievements at these key international shows.

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUARTER HORSE BUYERS VISIT ALBERTA FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

(WEST GERMANY)

Thirteen quarter horse enthusiasts from the Federal Republic of Germany are visiting Alberta from July 31 to August 17 1982, with intentions to purchase additional quality western leisure riding horses for use in West Germany.

According to Mr. Wulff, international trade director for Europe, Mr. Pete Rice and the Quarter Horse Breeders Group have done an excellent job in the promotion of quarter horses in Germany and other selected western European markets. For example, the Quarter Horse Breeders Group, in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture, has hosted incoming buyers' groups, has recently participated in Eurocheval, a horse show in southern Germany and has conducted clinics in Germany. Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch has been very helpful to the breeders group and Mr. Wulff adds that, "Mr. Milligan's efforts have substantially aided the promotion and sale of Alberta leisure horses to Europe."

While the number of quality quarter horses that has gone to West Germany has not been large, the market for Alberta quarter horses in Germany in growing as more and more people are taking up the habit of western leisure and trail riding.

The market for quarter horses in Germany is for a pleasure horse that is gentle, easy to ride, has good blood lines and is durable. Mr. Wulff says that the Alberta quarter horse meets all of these requirements and the group of German buyers currently in Alberta seem particularly enthused about Alberta quarter horses. Prospects for additional quarter horses moving from Alberta to West Germany in 1982 are very good.

In early March, 1983, it is expected that Alberta's leisure horse industry will participate in its second Equitana which is the premier horse show in Europe, held

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Quarter Horse Buyers Visit Alberta from the Federal Republic of Germany (cont'd)

every two years in Essen, West Germany. Alberta participated in Equitana 1981 which was the first time Alberta leisure horse breeders had displayed horses off this continent. Mr. Wulff states that the experience gained by the staff of international marketing and by the trainers and horse owners who participated in Equitana 1981 will hold us in good stead in the promotion and sale of additional western leisure riding horses to Europe.

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August 16, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTICIAN APPOINTED AT VEGREVILLE

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, announced the appointment of Dr. Rina Varma to the position of plant disease diagnostician.

Dr. Varma's main duties will include diagnosis of plant disease problems, as well as identification and culture collection of plant pathogenic fungi. She will also take part in applied research and extension activities in plant pathology.

Her most recent employment was with the biological process evaluation section of environmental technology at the Environmental Centre. Earlier, Dr. Varma was associated with the plant industry laboratory of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Dr. Varma received a M.Sc. in plant pathology in India, a M.Sc. in plant genetics from the University of Virginia, and was awarded a Ph.D. in mycology at the University of Alberta. She is a member of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta and the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ne: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKBIRD DAMAGE SURVEY

The 1981 province-wide survey to determine the severity, extent and nature of the damage caused by blackbirds to field crops is being repeated this summer by Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC).

Farmers who have suffered damage to their crops in 1982 from these birds are asked to contact their local AHCIC office or adjuster in order that a limited but representative sampling of damage can be compiled. There is no charge for the investigation.

At present there is no compensation in Alberta for damage caused by blackbirds and there is no payment for losses through the crop insurance or wildlife damage programs.

Over the years blackbird damage has been widespread but variable, notes Cliff Barrett, supervisor of animal pest control with Alberta Agriculture. Some farmers have reported heavy damage to oats, barley, corn and sunflowers, while others have reported only scattered feeding on these crops and on wheat.

For further information on the survey and information on controlling blackbirds contact your district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman, fish and wildlife officer, the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation in Lacombe (Telephone:782-4661) or one of the three regional supervisors of vertebrate pest control:

Northwest Region - R.C. Acorn (covering Barrhead - Fairview regions
from Edmonton) 427-5369

East Central Region - J.B. Bourne (Red Deer - Vermilion regions)
Vermilion 853-2811

Southern Region - P.N. Merrill (Lethbridge - Airdrie regions)
Lethbridge 329-5124

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Blackbird Damage Survey (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch in Edmonton (427-5370) can also be contacted.

An Agriculture Canada publication entitled "Blackbirds and the Protection of Field Crops" (Agdex 685) deals with the control of red-winged and other blackbirds and is available from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Prospects appear favorable for sustained hog prices in the last half of 1982.

According to Gordon Herrington, livestock economist with Alberta Agriculture, Canadian hog prices rose steadily in the first half of 1982, peaking in June. As well, exports to Japan and the U.S. were considerably up from 1981 levels. Hog slaughter numbers declined during the first half of 1982 in comparison with 1981 numbers.

The U.S. hog situation paralleled the Canadian situation with prices in the first half of 1982 rising then levelling in June and hog slaughter production down from 1981 levels.

In Alberta, hog slaughter numbers for the first half of 1982 also declined and prices rose to the extent that some measure of profitability was restored to the industry.

Supply prospects in North America are determined by U.S. hog numbers, says Mr. Herrington. Reports indicate continuing reductions in pig meat supplies for the third quarter and first part of the fourth quarter in 1982 as farrowing intentions indicate further reductions in pig meat output during the last half of 1982.

In line with U.S. supplies, Canadian pig meat output will also be lower for the remainder of 1982 and extending into early 1983.

With North America facing lower pig meat output for the remainder of 1982, prices at Edmonton are expected to average in the low $90/cwt range in the third quarter and maintain this level well into the fourth quarter.

Mr. Herrington concludes that the major strength for the maintenance of Canadian prices will be provided by U.S. market conditions.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP AND LAMB SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Lamb slaughter for the remainder of 1982 is expected to continue to increase while prices are expected to decline but still remain above year ago levels.

Deby Thorsen of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that Canadian sheep and lamb slaughter numbers during the second quarter of 1982 maintained their upward trend. Alberta also experienced a major increase in slaughter numbers of 43 per cent from a year ago, and in the U.S. slaughter numbers were also up.

A consistent demand for lambs during the first half of 1982 led to imports from the U.S. and local lamb prices rose to levels equivalent to the cost of the imported lambs. Alberta lamb prices during the second quarter were in the $76.60 to $78.60/cwt range, which was up from first quarter prices and year ago levels, and competitive with Toronto prices which averaged $85.19/cwt.

Price increases were a result of a seasonal decline in supplies and the increased demand during Easter. Historically, says Ms. Thorsen, lamb prices increase during the second quarter, peak, then begin a downward trend in the third quarter.

Total imports of processed lamb during the first half of 1982 declined 28 per cent from one year ago, although lamb imports from the U.S. increased by 25 per cent. The overall decline in imports of processed lamb was a result of the decrease in imports from Australia and New Zealand.

Ms. Thorsen expects lamb slaughter to continue its upward trend during the remaining two quarters of 1982. As we move into a high supply period, prices are expected to follow seasonal trends and decline to the $60/cwt range in the third quarter.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of July, 1982.

August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 CUSTOM RATES FOR FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Costs for fertilizer application, as well as the amounts charged for aerial fertilizer application, have increased from the rates surveyed in 1981.

The fertilizer application rates per acre for 1982 are given in the following table.

Fertilizer Application Rates (per acre)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$1.50 - $3.00	$2.50 - $3.00
Central	$ .65 - $5.00	$2.50 - $2.75
South	$2.25 - $3.50	$2.50 - $3.00

Cheryl Porteous of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says the cost of aerial fertilizer application in 1981 was $2.00 to $2.50 per acre, while in 1982 the cost rose to $3.50 to $4.00 per acre.

This survey information is compiled annually by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Unifarm cost monitoring system.

A more detailed range of custom rates charged in 1982 will be in the publication "Custom Rates Annual Summary – 1982" which will be released by the farm business management branch in April, 1983. Farmers may also be interested in obtaining copies of other Alberta Agriculture publications. "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates" (Agdex 825-4) helps farmers to calculate individual machinery costs. "Custom Farming Agreement – 1981" (Agdex 817-10) provides the farmer and operator with the needed information on how to set up a contract that covers both of their needs.

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1982 Custom Rates For Fertilizer Application (cont'd)

Copies of these publications can be obtained from the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture in Olds (556-8421), Alberta Agriculture's district offices or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBICIDE APPLICATION CUSTOM RATES FOR 1982

The 1982 custom rates for herbicide application have remained relatively unchanged from the rates surveyed in 1981.

According to Cheryl Porteous of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, the recent 1982 survey indicated more custom operators are offering a herbicide application service. The use of aerial applicators also increased because fields were too wet to spray by conventional methods.

Aerial application rates per acre are given in the following table.

Aerial Application Rates (per acre)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$2.40 - $3.40	$2.50 - $3.00
Central	$3.00 - $3.60	$3.00 - $3.60
South	$2.65 - $5.35	$3.00 - $4.00

Application costs will differ between fixed wing planes and helicopters. Fixed wing planes have larger holding capacities than helicopters but are restricted by the availability of nearby landing strips. Their custom charges will be higher when pilots must return to the base to refill rather than land in a nearby field. A helicopter, on the other hand, can land almost anywhere which minimizes refilling time and allows a lower application cost.

The chemical application rate affects the charge. Custom applicators vary their rates according to the amount of product applied per acre. Therefore, the more product applied per acre the greater the charge to the farmer. This explains the significant difference in the above rates.

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Herbicide Application Custom Rates For 1982 (cont'd)

The following table indicates the ground application rates per acre for herbicides.

Ground Application Rates (per acre)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$ .75 - $3.50	$2.25 - $2.75
Central	$1.50 - $3.00	$1.75 - $2.40
South	$2.00 - $2.75	$2.00 - $2.50

For ground spraying the amount of product applied per acre does not affect the charge for application. However, the amount of water applied per acre will cause a slight variation in the cost of application.

This survey information is compiled annually by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Unifarm cost monitoring system. For further information contact your local district agriculturist or the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture in Olds.

August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORK PRODUCERS MARKET INSURANCE PLAN COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR

The Alberta Pork Producers Market Insurance Plan has been in effect since July 1, 1981, and has provided a measure of insurance to pork producers against low returns.

Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch reports that, at present, about 2,800 producers are participating in the insurance plan. They produce about 1.1 million hogs annually which is about 70 per cent of Alberta's total.

Premiums paid for the first six months were 2.5 per cent of gross returns from all hogs sold under this program. This was increased to four per cent for the last six months of the program because large payouts had depleted the funds.

Mr. Schuld says the level of support provided to producers ranged from $81.47 per cwt grading 100 index down to $77.61, with most recent support being lower because of the drop in feed costs.

Insurance payouts totalled $11.9 million or about $10.30 per hog insured, while premiums averaged $4.20 per insured hog for a net value of $6.53 per hog insured in the first year. From May until the present, higher prices for hogs have resulted in no further payouts. Premiums paid, since they are calculated as a percentage, have risen along with hog prices.

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Pork Producers Market Insurance Plan Completes Its First Year (cont'd)

The following table summarizes the support levels provided and actual monthly average price in Alberta. Note that the support level indicated should be reduced by premiums paid to estimate the actual net benefit to participants.

Month	Alberta Average Price/cwt 100 index (Ag. Canada)	PPMIP Support Level/cwt 100 index	Difference	Premium (% of gross return)
	$	$	$	%
July, 1981	77.19	80.25	- 3.06	2.5
August	75.71	80.43	- 4.72	2.5
September	78.86	80.28	- 1.42	2.5
October	75.27	81.47	- 6.20	2.5
November	68.67	80.24	- 11.57	2.5
December	64.91	78.65	- 13.74	2.5
January, 1982	62.36	79.40	- 17.04	4.0
February	68.44	78.27	- 9.83	4.0
March	71.88	71.92	- 6.04	4.0
April	75.68	77.61	- 1.93	4.0
May	86.35	77.69	+ 8.66	4.0
June	92.40	77.72	+14.68	4.0
July	90.87	78.40	+12.47	4.0

August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM

Preconditioned and preimmunized calves will be sold at 12 sales throughout Alberta in 1982.

These sales will be held at the following places:

Didsbury	October 30
Fort Macleod	November 4 and December 2
Ponoka	November 6 and December 4
Grande Prairie	November 8 and December 6
Olds	November 8 and December 6
Clyde	November 15 and December 13
Rocky Mountain House	December 3

Those calves processed under the preconditioned option must have been owned 60 days by the operator who preconditions them, be at least four months of age before vaccinations, must be castrated, dehorned three weeks before sale, vaccinated with 8-way clostridial, IBR/PI$_3$ (red nose), warble treated, and weaned a minimum of 30 days before sale. These calves will be identified with a green tag and properly completed certificate.

The preimmunized option includes all of the above requirements except the calves are not weaned and are identified by a white tag.

The program is developing a strong base in Alberta. In 1980 there was one sale with 1,300 head sold, in 1981 over 5,000 head were sold at five sales, and 1982 could see 10,000 head sold through the program.

Those wishing further information should contact their district agriculturist or veterinarian.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ENERGY PARADOX

The popular press is full of ideas on how to save energy. Most of them will work, but not all of them will save money. Farmers are large users of energy but they are in a business to make money, and should be cautious of the economics of "energy-savers".

In some cases it is possible to save both energy and money, says Edwin Thornton of Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch, but beware. Re-insulating a barn ceiling from R20 to R30, or installing a wind generator in the Peace River area will save energy but will not save money. The same is true of adding a solar collector to a house. It will save energy but may not save money.

There are many unknown factors when calculating pay-back periods for "energy-savers" and the biggest is the cost of fuel. The provincial energy agreement gave us a rough rule of thumb of 16 per cent per year increase in the cost of fuel. Another variable is the capital cost of the equipment. Equipment which takes a large amount of energy to manufacture is going to increase at the same rate as fuel costs. Labor intensive components will increase at the same rate as wage hikes. Electronic equipment, however, seems to have decreased in cost which means that a computer will be cheaper next year.

Mr. Thornton gives some general rules regarding "energy savers".

- Wind equipment may be economically viable in southern Alberta, especially for pumping water.
- Solar collectors may be economical if constructed as an integral part of a building. Passive collectors will always work when the sun is out.

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The Energy Paradox (cont'd)

. Growing your own fuel is not always practical. The ideal fuel for a gasoline engine is gasoline. Alcohol will work, but not as well and not as economically as gasoline. Propane is better than gasoline if the vehicle does a lot of miles and is heavy on fuel. For a stationary engine, natural gas, if available, is even better than propane.

. The best fuel for a diesel engine is diesel. Sunflower oil will work in summer but is best used in the kitchen.

. Up to 75 per cent of the heat lost in a barn goes out in the exhaust air. Adding insulation to barns will always save energy but may not be cost effective. In most cases, checking and tuning the ventilation system will be more effective at far less expense. An air-to-air heat exchanger will save energy but may not pay for itself in terms of energy saved. However, if the barn conditions are improved, the animals may get to market sooner thus giving a saving in feed costs.

. Fertilizer is an input requiring a great deal of energy in its manufacture. Whether it is cost effective to add more will depend on the soil chemistry and the moisture conditions in the soil. Soil requirements can be determined by a soil test; however, moisture conditions are always uncertain.

Farmers should take into account the above recommendations before they invest in capital spending to save energy.

For more information on whether or not an investment in a piece of equipment will be economical, contact the engineering branch of Alberta Agriculture.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 PROVINCIAL 4-H DAIRY SHOW AND TEAM JUDGING CONTEST

Twenty-two of the 23 dairy clubs from across Alberta travelled to Red Deer on July 24, 1982 for the 36th annual Provincial 4-H Dairy Show and Judging Contest.

The dairy show and judging contest provides an opportunity for 4-H dairy club members to broaden their knowledge, show their project animals, and display their judging and showmanship skills.

Fifteen teams competed in the judging contest. Holstein, Ayrshire, Guernsey, and Jersey cow classes were judged as well as a pedigree class. The overall team winner was the Vegreville 4-H dairy club. The top individuals in the judging contest were Greg Thimer from the Sturgeon Valley 4-H dairy club and Faye Wedman from the Pipestone 4-H dairy club who will both travel to the International 4-H Judging Seminar in Regina in November as dairy judges on the Alberta 4-H judging team.

The dairy show was officially opened at 1:00 p.m. by Divona Clark, 1982 Alberta dairy princess, and Shelly Murdoch, 1982 4-H premier's award winner. Members of all the dairy clubs present at the show were given an opportunity to display their project animals and club banners in a parade that followed.

The dairy show consisted of five classes — a calf class, yearling class, two-year old class, herd class and showmanship class. The official conformation judge for the day was Mr. Norm Atkins of Leduc and the official showmanship judge was Mrs. Marg Atkins of Leduc. A herdmanship competition was judged throughout the day and a winning team was chosen on the basis of how clean the stall area was kept as well as the club members' general conduct. This year's winner was the Mountainview 4-H dairy club.

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1982 Provincial 4-H Dairy Show And Team Judging Contest (cont'd)

A banquet in which the awards for the judging contest were presented concluded this year's dairy show.

A host and major sponsor of the show was the Westener Exposition in Red Deer. Other sponsors included Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Dairymen's Association, the four major dairy breed associations (Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey), as well as a number of private individuals and local businessmen.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 ALBERTA 4-H CONSERVATION CAMP

Delin Sheehan of Carstairs and Earl Greenhough of Warburg were recognized as top female and male campers at the 1982 Alberta 4-H conservation camp program.

Sixty-five senior 4-H members, including four from Montana, and two from Saskatchewan, participated in a week-long program at Silver Creek Ranch, west of Carstairs. Areas of study included soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife management, forestry conservation and range management. The purpose of the camp is to provide delegates with an introduction to the various resource areas and to show the inter-relationship between all areas of our environment.

The 4-H members also participated in a day-long tour that included stops at the Dixon Dam, Raven Fish Rearing Station, Burnstick Lake and the Sundre Forestry Station.

Members are encouraged to spread the conservation message to family, clubs and other organizations upon returning to their local communities.

This year's camp, jointly sponsored by TransAlta Utilities Corporation and Alberta Power Limited, and organized by the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture, was attended by the largest number of participants in the program's 17 year history.

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August 23, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 GRANT MAC EWAN CONSERVATION AWARD

A highlight of the 1982 Alberta 4-H conservation camp program was the announcement of Heather Jackson, a seventeen year old member of the Millarville multi club, as the 1982 Grant MacEwan Conservation Award recipient.

This award is presented to a 1981 graduate camper who has maintained a high profile in spreading the conservation message to other individuals, groups and organizations in his/her community. The award, jointly sponsored by TransAlta Utilities Corporation and Alberta Power Limited, will be formally presented at the Annual Weekly Newspaper Editor's Convention in mid-September. Heather will be presented with a permanent engraved plate resembling the major award and a $200 savings bond.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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Print Media Branch

August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPUTY MINISTER ADDRESSES HATCHERY FEDERATION

"Hatcheries are an essential and integral part of the poultry industry. You are the front end of the production, processing and marketing chain."

"Don't take success for granted. Carry out your own market intelligence and bring both problems and opportunities to the attention of poultry producers and processors."

This was part of the thrust of an address given to the Canadian Hatchery Federation in Calgary on August 18 by Alberta's deputy agriculture minister, H.B. (Ben) McEwen.

Members of the federation were given some appreciation of how the Alberta Department of Agriculture assists and supports the primary producers and agricultural processors in the province. They were told that the province is dedicated to a resolution of the Crow Rate issue which would both improve the transportation system for the grain farmer and allow for further development of Alberta's livestock and agricultural processing industries. Also, Mr. McEwen said the Alberta government is financing 80 per cent of the $280 million Prince Rupert grain terminal.

Concerning the poultry industry itself, the deputy minister outlined several poultry research projects which receive funding from the province's Farming for the Future research fund. These include research into leg weakness in turkeys, implications of salmonella contamination of poultry meat, purification and characterization of hemorrhagic enteritis virus in turkeys, and the effect of dietary fat on skeletal development in broiler chickens.

Mr. McEwen went on to address some of the concerns and problems associated with the industry.

Mention was made of the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board, an organization which will control eggs within the province. The objectives of the board are to meet market demand with a quality product by orderly marketing and with a fair return to the hatcheries.

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Deputy Minister Addresses Hatchery Federation (cont'd)

A concern of the egg and turkey industries is that, under the national egg and turkey plans, production allocation is limited to proportions less than the province's population. A new allocation formula has been agreed to by all "CEMA" signatories which will see future quota increases allocated on the basis of population as well as on comparative advantage of production. However, it will take many years before the current supply short-fall problem is rectified in Alberta.

Concern was also expressed about the pullorum-typhoid eradication program which will not commence on a national basis until at least 1984. Alberta had joined this co-operative program assuming a 1982 commencement.

In closing, Mr. McEwen stated, "Over the last number of years we have had a tremendous reduction in the number of registered hatcheries in each province of Canada. This consolidation and rationalization has resulted in greater volumes, greater efficiency, and better quality of products being supplied to the poultry growers. You should be supplying disease-free chicks and poults and related services to breeders and growers. It is through such efficiency and service that hatcheries will remain viable and grow within the total poultry industry of our country."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Twenty-nine projects to date have been offered awards under Alberta Agriculture's On-Farm Demonstration Program, a sub-program of Farming for the Future.

Grants offered under the program will assist farmers and farmer organizations in the on-farm testing and demonstration of projects concerned with new concepts and new technology in agriculture. Funds may be used to purchase materials, equipment and supplies, or put towards travel, labor, data analysis expenses, etc. for the approved project.

The 29 awards totalled $72,963, with an average of $2,516 awarded per project.

Awards have been offered for the following projects.

Project Title	Applicant	Location of Project (in Alberta)
Zero tillage vs. minimum till trial	G.B.J. Knot	Stavely
Wheat and barley varietal trials	Ron Smith	Nanton
Wheat and barley varietal trials on summerfallow	Marvin Vandervalk	Claresholm
Evaluation of the warm treatment of swine manure	Al Coutts	Bow Island
Blackbird control	Tom Droog	Bow Island
The effect of trace mineral supplementation on calf gains and cow breeding performance	Dave Lathwell	Sundre
The effect of trace mineral supplementation on calf gains and cow breeding performance	J. Hughes	Longview
Pre-immunization of feeder cattle	D.J. Edge	Cochrane
(A) Comparison of weight gains of suckling calves implanted with Ralgro and non-implanted (B) Comparison of weight gains and health status of weaned calves in feed-lot. implanted once and twice with growth implants	Red Deer Ranches	Sundre
Special crops demonstration trial	Chinook Applied Research Association	Oyen
Snow entrapment	Don Pryor	Three Hills

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Projects Approved For On-Farm Demonstration Program (cont'd)

Project Title	Applicant	Location of Project (in Alberta)
Fertilizer rejuvenation of aged perennial forage stand	Russel Mayberry	Hanna
Foxtail barley control	W. Koch	Three Hills
Organic matter building	Frank Davidson	Morrin
Evaluation of moisture conservation by various stubble heights	Chinook Applied Research Association	Oyen
Evaluation of moisture conservation of continuous cropping vs summerfallow rotation	Chinook Applied Research Association	Oyen
Nitrogen and organic matter building	Neil Cameron	Huxley
Pasture improvement demonstration	G. & D. Hoar	Innisfail
Ralgro implant trial with bulls	Ty Lund	Alhambra
Central Alberta high moisture barley study	Mel Stickland	Red Deer, Lacombe Ponoka (9 farms)
Effect of bovaid and growth implants in yearling steers and nursing bull calves	D. Carlyle	Bentley
The effect of growth implants on the growth and sexual development of bull steers and heifer calves	Stan & Ron Marcinek	Condor
The effect of trace minerals on the growth of suckling calves and the response to Ralgro implants in bull calves	Gordon Young	Leslieville
Swath turner	A.J. Murdock	Eckville
Evaluation of cultural practices used to extend growing season, increase production and quality of vegetables	Mr. & Mrs. Grey	Ft. McMurray
Grain feeding yearlings on pasture	Keith English	Dapp
Late summer pasture and grain versus feedlot for finishing yearling heifers	Murray Holt	Sangudo
Laxatives for sows and their effects on constipation and the M.M.A. complex	Ronald Lane	Westlock
Raised lambing crates	L.T. Jones	Fairview

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Projects Approved For On-Farm Demonstration Program (cont'd)

Producers interested in participating in the program should contact their local district office of Alberta Agriculture.

For more information on a particular project or the program contact the Secretary, Farming for the Future, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 CUSTOM HAYMAKING RATES

Custom haymaking costs increased in 1982 from the 1981 surveyed rates. The cost for stacking conventional hay bales, however, remained relatively constant compared to the rates surveyed in 1981.

The survey, says Cheryl Porteous of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, indicates a mower conditioner is the most common type of cutter used for custom haying. By using a mower conditioner an operator may reduce the drying time of the forage and decrease the number of hours spent in the field. A summary of the current 1982 rates for cutting and conditioning are given in the following table.

Cutting and Conditioning ($ per acre)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$4.00 - $ 7.75	$5.00 - $7.50
Central	$4.50 - $10.00	$7.00 - $8.00
South	$6.50 - $11.00	$8.00 - $9.00

The cost for cutting and conditioning ranged from $25 to $40 per hour, with the common charge being $40 per hour. Field conditions have a bearing on what the cost of cutting will be, as well as the type of implement used (i.e. swather vs mower conditioner vs swather conditioner).

The cost of round baling has increased over the past year which may be a result of the increase in machinery and fuel costs. The increased popularity of the round bales may also

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1982 Custom Haymaking Rates (cont'd)

have sparked the increased cost of custom baling. In 1981 the cost of round baling was $3 to $5 per bale. The 1982 cost of round baling is given in the following table.

Baling — Large Round ($ per bale)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$4.00 - $7.50	$4.00 - $5.00
Central	$4.00 - $9.00	$5.00 - $6.00
South	$5.00	—

Ms. Porteous reports that the cost of conventional square bales in 1982 has changed little from 1981.

Baling — Small Square ($ per bale)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$.20 - $.28	$.20 - $.28
Central	$.25 - $.75	$.25 - $.30
South	$.25 - $.50	$.30 - $.35

Stacking costs for conventional square bales have not changed from the rates surveyed in 1981. The cost of stacking small square bales in 1982 on a $ per ton basis is $10 to $15 per ton.

Stacking — Small Square ($ per bale)

	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$.30	—
Central	$.20 - $.47	$.20 - $.25
South	$.16 - $.30	$.19 - $.25

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1982 Custom Haymaking Rates (cont'd)

Round bale stacking costs have remained constant. In 1981 the charge for round bale stacking was $2.50 per bale compared to $2 to $2.50 in 1982.

Since the northern part of the province consists mainly of grain operations, it is difficult to obtain data which deal with livestock operations.

This information is compiled annually by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Unifarm cost monitoring system. For further information contact your local district agriculturist, or the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LATEST PROPOSAL FOR CALCULATING CAPITAL GAINS RESERVES

A change in Revenue Canada's approach to calculating capital gains reserves has been announced.

Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch provides an update on the past and current federal budget proposals concerning the calculation of capital gains reserves.

The federal budget of November 12, 1981 eliminated the use of a capital gains reserve on all future sales of capital property where the vendor held a debt.

On December 18, 1981 an amendment was proposed to allow a limited five year reserve on capital gains. The reserve was extended to 10 years in the case of family farm transfers to the next generation. The income received, however, was deemed to be taxable income and not pro-rated between capital gain and the tax free base value (e.g. valuation day value).

The latest proposal of June 28, 1982, says Mr. Good, is a combination of the old capital gains reserve provision (prior to November 12, 1981) and the December 18, 1981 proposals. The change lies in Revenue Canada's taxation policy on sale proceeds. The government now stipulates income received to be a capital gain and, depending upon your repayment contract, at least 20 per cent or 10 per cent of the total capital gain must be reported each year. If you receive more than 20 per cent of the sale proceeds, for example 30 per cent, then 30 per cent of the capital gain must be reported when filing your tax return.

The capital gains reserve calculation formula may be illustrated with the following example of a farmer selling land to a neighbor. He will receive $20,000 a year plus interest for the next nine years.

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Latest Proposal For Calculating Capital Gains Reserves (cont'd)

Proceeds of Sale	$ 200,000
Cost of (valuation day value)	40,000
Capital Gain on Sale	$ 160,000

The maximum reserve is the lesser of:

a) The (old) reserve calculation and

b) the capital gain over the maximum term times the remaining term.

$$\text{a) Capital Gains Reserve} = \frac{\text{Balance of Principal Unpaid}}{\text{Total Transfer Price}} \times \text{Capital Gain}$$

$$= \frac{\$180{,}000}{200{,}000} \times 160{,}000 = \$\,144{,}000$$

$$\text{b) Capital Gains Reserve} = \frac{\text{Capital Gains}}{\text{Maximum Term}} \times \text{Remaining Term}$$

$$= \frac{\$160{,}000 \times 4}{5} = \$128{,}000$$

Reported Capital Gain = Capital Gain - Reserve (a or b)

$$= \$160{,}000 - \$128{,}000 = \$32{,}000$$

$$\text{Taxable Capital Gain} = \frac{\text{Capital Gain}}{2} = \frac{\$32{,}000}{2} = \underline{\underline{\$16{,}000}}$$

Although the vendor is receiving only 10 per cent of his sale proceeds each year he is not selling to a family member and therefore, the new rules require the tax to be paid over five years. Under the legislation existing prior to November 12, 1981 the tax liability was triggered only when proceeds were received. This resulted in the vendor being able to spread his tax over the entire term of the sale contract.

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Latest Proposal For Calculating Capital Gains Reserves (cont'd)

Conclusion on the Use of Reserves

The new method of calculating capital gains reserve now requires that at least one-fifth of the gain be included as income in the year of sale and in each of the subsequent four taxation years. The rules for a family farm transfer to a child will be modified to provide for a minimum of one tenth of the gain in the year of sale and in each of the subsequent nine taxation years.

These proposed changes to the reserve provision will be welcomed by the farming community as capital gains can be effectively spread over a ten-year period by simply receiving 10 per cent of the sale proceeds each year. One misconception that may arise from this budget, is that farmers may believe they can automatically spread their tax over 10 years when selling assets to their children. If you receive 40 per cent down you will incur 40 per cent of the capital gain in the initial year of the sale agreement. To achieve a 10-year deferral, the payment for sale must be structured equally over a ten-year period.

Mr. Good cautions farmers to obtain competent tax advice from an accountant or a lawyer before entering into any sale agreement.

For more information contact Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACTORS INVOLVED IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Recently there have been numerous articles written on the importance of financial management during tough times. But what is financial management?

Gary Bradshaw, a regional farm economist with Alberta Agriculture, takes a look at some of the factors involved in financial management and gives examples to illustrate his points.

One of these factors is the ability to look at all angles of your finances. For example, although it is accurate to say that by changing a $200,000 loan at 20 per cent interest from 20 to 15 years repayment, you save $180,000 in interest and pay only an additional $1,700 per year in payments, is this the entire story?

With inflation running in the 12 per cent range (one of the reasons for the 20 per cent interest rates), money in the future is not worth as much in today's terms. This factor is very important to consider before paying off loans faster since payments are increased for the first 15 years with savings coming only in years 16 to 20.

In terms of cash flow, we should examine how much we are really saving by shortening loan repayment and increasing yearly payments. If we use an inflation rate of 12 per cent on the $200,000 loan, by paying an additional $1,700 per year for the next 15 years we are saving only $16,000 in terms of today's dollars rather than $180,000. While this is still a substantial amount, you must be sure that you actually have the extra $1,700 per year available.

The analysis, however, is still not finished if this $180,000 of interest which you save is tax deductible as occurs with farm loans and mortgages, says Mr. Bradshaw. If you are in a 20 per cent tax bracket (taxable income of $9,000) then you actually save only $7,700

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Factors Involved In Financial Management (cont'd)

in today's money by paying the extra $1,700 per year to pay the loan off early. If you are in the maximum tax bracket of 46 per cent (taxable income of over $55,000) then in terms of today's money it actually costs you $3,600 to pay the loan off faster.

Although we don't know what the inflation rate will be in the future it will probably be tied directly to the interest rates so relatively speaking these figures should not vary a great deal.

Mr. Bradshaw concludes that the most important thing to examine is whether your cash flow will stand the extra payment now in order to save money in the future. With most farmers it is the lack of cash or operating credit that is important, not the 20 or 15 year mortgage that may save some money 20 years from now.

A wise financial manager will analyze the alternative uses of the extra $1,700 payment and examine what the actual savings are now rather than being concerned with what looks like a large saving 15 or 20 years down the road.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DO YOU WANT TO DRINK IT OR DRIVE IT?

by Edwin Thornton
Engineering and Rural Services Division, Alberta Agriculture

Alternative sources of fuel are receiving a great deal of attention these days. Alcohol is one suggested alternative to gasoline as a fuel. This article looks at some of the problems associated with putting alcohol in the tank and not behind the wheel.

There are two basic types of alcohol, methyl and ethyl. Methyl (wood alcohol) is used as a de-icing fluid and, if ingested, makes you go blind. Ethyl alcohol is the fire part of whiskey and gin. Both have about half the heating value of gasoline. If you filled your gas tank with whiskey at 100 proof and managed to get the engine running, it would have one-quarter the power it would have running on gasoline. The engine would not run for long either because the sugar in the whiskey would soon coat the pistons, but you would have quite a crowd sniffing the exhaust before it stopped.

To blend alcohol with gasoline (gasohol), the alcohol has to be very pure, 99 per cent, or the water separates out. This purity is beyond the capacity of most farm stills. Farm operations may be able to produce it at 90 to 95 per cent with a lot of effort and this can be used directly in gasoline engines with few modifications. Note, however, that the distillation process uses more energy than it produces.

At the moment, the most economical fuel for a gasoline engine is gasoline, or in some cases, propane. Therefore, alcohol should be used in the gin and not in the en-gin-e.

If you want to save money on fuel there are easier ways than feeding your vehicle booze. For example, keep your vehicle well tuned with clean plugs and air filters, and

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Do You Want To Drink It Or Drive It? (cont'd)

check the timing. Use radial tires and keep them inflated to maximum pressure. Use a light foot on the throttle. Drive as though you don't have any brakes; braking wastes energy. Plan your trips to make the best use of the vehicle.

Revenue Canada has strict regulations regarding home brewing. These include posting a bond and NO SAMPLING. A factsheet entitled "Research Summary — Alcohol Fuels" (Agdex FS769-3) elaborates on some of these points and is available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SWINE FAIR FOR ALBERTA

Don't miss the first Lethbridge Swine Fair taking place in Lethbridge on October 14 and 15, 1982 at the Pavilion Building, Exhibition Grounds.

The southern Alberta region has an active and growing swine industry with many of the larger swine units in the province and nearly 20 per cent of the total swine population, but it tends to be separated by time and distance from such activities as the Red Deer Pork Congress and the Banff seminars. With this in mind an enthusiastic group of people from all segments of the industry combined efforts to start the first swine fair.

The two-day event has something for the whole family — commercial exhibits, producer seminars, barbeque and microwave cooking demonstrations, a cartoon contest, a barrow show and sale open to all members of the Southern Alberta Hog Producers Association, and a show and sale of pedigree stock. The fair winds up with a banquet and the sale of the barrow carcasses on the evening of October 15.

For further information on this event contact Alan George, Regional Swine Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7, Phone: (403) 329-5108.

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August 30, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TESTING AND INSTRUCTION CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED TO FARM TRAINING SECTION

Lawrence McKnight, supervisor, farm training section of Alberta Agriculture's extension division is pleased to announce the appointment of Ty Faechner to the position of testing and instruction co-ordinator.

Mr. Faechner's main responsibilities will include managing the process of testing participants on the Green Certificate Program, development of training guidelines and performance, standards and establishing criteria for off-farm training of Green Certificate trainees.

His most recent employment was with Alberta Environment where he trained pesticide applicators. Earlier, Mr. Faechner was associated with a forage seed contracting company in Grande Prairie and with Agriculture Canada in Edmonton.

Mr. Faechner received a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta. He is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and a member of the Alberta Society for Human Resources and Organizational Development.

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